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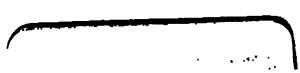

CHAMBERS'S

GEOGRAPHICAL READER

STANDARD III.

ENGLAND AND WALES

W. & R. CHAMBERS
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STANDARD III.

Physical and Political Geography of England, with special knowledge of the District in which the School is situated.

PREFACE.

THE aim of this book is to give its young readers a good general idea of the geography of England and Wales.

With this end in view, the two countries have been dealt with in their Geographical, Physical, Political, and Commercial aspects.

The writer has also endeavoured to render the book interesting, as well as to lead the children to think, by drawing contrasts between our country in its present and former states, and showing the various means by which England has attained to her present position.

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GEOGRAPHICAL READER.

STANDARD III.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

LESSON 1.

THE POSITION OF ENGLAND.

ENGLAND is known all the world over as a *great* land, though so small in size.

2. It is the purpose of this book to tell you about the land in which you live, and of the many things which help to make this little land so great in itself, as well as in the eyes of all other nations.

3. If you look at a map of the world, you will

find that England is 'but a little spot,' right in the middle of all the land in the world. You will also see that it forms with Wales the southern portion of a group of islands called **The British Isles.**

4. England, Wales, and Scotland together form the largest of these islands, which is called **Great Britain.** Ireland, the next in size, lies to the west of Great Britain. Besides these, hundreds of smaller islands, many of them uninhabited, form part of the group.

5. England is bounded by the sea on all sides except the north, where the **Cheviot Hills** and the river **Tweed** separate it from Scotland.

6. Its eastern boundary is the **North Sea**, which lies between the British Isles and the continent of Europe, and across which you would sail to reach Norway, Denmark, North Germany, Holland, or Belgium.

7. The southern boundary is **The English Channel**, which lies between the south coast of England and the north coast of France.

8. On the west we have the **Irish Sea** and **St George's Channel**, which separate England from Ireland. These are inlets of the broad Atlantic Ocean, which washes the south-western shores, and spreads its vast expanse of waters between us and the great continent of North America.

9. Lying, as it were, in mid-ocean, with her shores open to the most important continents of the world, our country holds a position of great interest and power. Ships come and go from and to every part of the globe. A country *without* coast-line, like Switzerland, for instance, is not so easily reached *from* all parts of the world, and has therefore less

trade with other nations, and is less known to them than a country with the sea all round it.

10. It will hardly fail to strike you that England's favoured position must have a great deal to do with her greatness. We shall try to show you in a

Map of British Isles with countries opposite.

future lesson how much the *position* of our land has to do with her wealth, peace, and prosperity.

11. Apart from her excellent position on the globe, England has many fine *natural features*, together with a vast amount of *mineral wealth*. As you read this book, you will be told what these grand natural resources of wealth are; and you will see

how, through the cleverness of her people, these have been turned to such good account as to make England the greatest country in the world.

12. A country may have a rich soil and abundance of natural wealth in some form or other; but, if its people are too lazy or too ignorant to make the best use of them, the country will remain poor. Englishmen are both industrious and clever—hence England has become rich through a wise and clever use of the wealth she naturally possesses.

pur'-pose	**con'-ti-nent**	**in'-stance**	**clev'-er-ness**
south'-ern	**Chan'-nel**	**fa'-voured**	**ac-count'**
por'-tion	**At-lan'-tic**	**po-si'-tion**	**ig'-nor-ant**
Brit'-ain	**ex-panse'**	**ex'-cel-lent**	**re-main'**
bound'-a-ry	**im-port'-ant**	**fea'-tures**	**nat'-ur-al-ly**
sep'-ar-ate	**in'-ter-est.**	**min'-er-al**	**pos-ses'-ses**

un-in-hab'-it-ed, *having no people living in them.*
bound'-ed, *edged round.*
pros-per'-i-ty, *success.*
a-bun'-dance, *plenty.*
in-dus'-tri-ous, *hard-working.*

LESSON 2.

THE SHAPE AND SIZE OF ENGLAND.

ENGLAND is something like a triangle in shape, having its angles or corners at Berwick-on-Tweed, Dover, and Land's End.

From Dover to Berwick-on-Tweed is 350 miles.
From Dover to Land's End is about 320 miles.
From Land's End to Berwick is 430 miles.

2. You will easily see from the diagram that these distances are measured in straight lines, and that they would be much greater if account were taken of all the ins and outs of the coast-line.

3. But the exact measurement of a country is taken from its most northern point to its most southern for the length; and from its most western to its most eastern point for the breadth. From its most northern point, near Berwick-on-Tweed, to its most southern, the **Lizard**, England measures 420 miles; while from its most eastern point, **Lowestoft Ness**, to its most western, **Land's End**, the distance is 360 miles.

4. England and Wales together cover an area or space of 58,000 square miles in extent. You will see that this little diagram is drawn to a *very* small scale to represent such a number of square miles. A square mile of land is a piece which measures a mile in length and a mile in breadth. It would take 58,000 such pieces to cover the surface of England and Wales. Of these, England would occupy about 50,000 square miles, and Wales 8000.

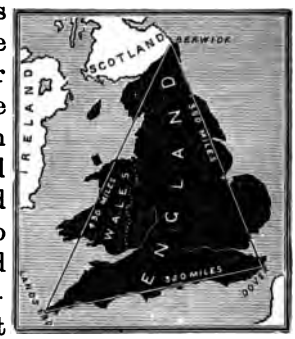


Diagram map showing the triangular shape of England.

5. Large as this may seem to you, England is exceedingly small compared with many other countries of the world. France is nearly four times the size of England and Wales, Russia in Europe is thirty times, and British India is fifteen times the size. Our queen is Empress of India as well as Queen of England.

6. Still England is not the smallest country on the

earth. It is more than twice the size of Scotland, nearly twice the size of Ireland, and five times larger than Holland or Belgium.

7. But if all the lands which represent 'The British Empire,' and over which our queen reigns, could be placed together, they would be more than one hundred times the size of England and Wales. England has vast possessions in every part of the world—in Europe, Asia, Africa, America, Australia, and New Zealand. No wonder her name is so well known, when her rule extends to every part of the globe!

8. You will read in history how our little land has gradually become possessed of such vast countries as to make Britain the first empire of the world, and the one upon which it is said 'the sun never sets.'

straight	**meas'-ure-ment**	**ex-ceed'-ing-ly**	**em'-pire**
ac-count'	**square**	**com-pared'**	**pos-ses'-sions**
ex-act'	**oc'-cu-py**	**Eu'-rope**	**Brit'-ain**

tri-an'-gle, *a figure with three corners and three sides.*
di'-a-gram, *a plan.*
re-pre-sent', *stand for.*
ex-tends', *reaches.*
grad'-u-al-ly, *a little at a time.*

LESSON 3.

THE COUNTIES OF ENGLAND.*

ENGLAND is divided into **counties** or **shires.** You will see from the map (page 137) how much they differ in shape and size. Yorkshire is the largest county, Rutland the smallest.

2. The word **county** came into use in the time of

* The details of the counties are given in Lessons 48 to 53.

the Normans. Many Norman counts (or earls) came over with the Conqueror, who gave them certain portions of the country to rule. Many of our famous old castles were built by them, and in some instances have been handed down from one generation to another. Several of our nobles can trace their ancestors back to the time of the Normans.

3. **Shires** simply mean **shares** of land. Those of you who have read the early history of our country will remember that it was at one time **shared** by different peoples or tribes.

4. Counties are separated from each other by rivers or mountains, or by some other lines of distinction, which are called **boundaries**. It sometimes happens that a town stands in two or three counties, being built upon a spot where the boundaries of the counties meet. The town of Todmorden stands both in Yorkshire and Lancashire. London stands in four different counties—Middlesex, Surrey, Essex, and Kent.

5. There are forty counties in England, and twelve in Wales. Those bordering on the sea are called **maritime** counties, the others **inland** counties.

6. In every county the queen appoints a **lord-lieutenant** to be at the head of the magistrates. There is also a **sheriff**, whose duty it is to see that people obey the laws and keep the peace, and **coroners**, who inquire into the cause of any sudden deaths.

7. The town where the public business of the county is transacted, is generally called the **county town**. It sometimes has the same name as the

county, and sometimes not. Thus the county towns of Yorkshire and Durham are York and Durham; but the county town of Cumberland is Carlisle, and of Surrey, Guildford. Sometimes, however, the names are very like those of the county itself. Thus, the county town of Cheshire is Chester; of Lancashire, Lancaster; of Norfolk, Norwich; and of Dorset, Dorchester.

8. The county town was at one time the largest and most important town in the county; but it is very seldom so now, for many larger manufacturing towns have sprung up during the last century.

9. Thus the county town of Hampshire is Winchester, a much smaller place than the great seaport town of Southampton; and the county town of Warwickshire is Warwick, which is much smaller than the busy town of Birmingham, in the same county.

coun'-ties	re-mem'-ber	ap-points'	in-quire'
Con'-quer-or	dif'-fer-ent	lieu-ten'-ant	sud'-den
cer'-tain	sep'-ar-at-ed	ma'-gis-trates	busi'-ness
por'-tions	moun'-tains	sher'-iff	gen'-er-al-ly
in'-stan-ces	dis-tinc'-tion	o-bey'	im-port'-ant
gen-er-a'-tion	bor'-der-ing	cor'-on-ers	man-u-fac'-tur-ing

an'-ces-tors, *those relatives who lived before them.*

bound'-a-ries, *marks of separation.*

mar'-i-time, *bordering on the sea.*

trans-act'-ed, *done, carried on.*

cen'-tu-ry, *a hundred years.*

LESSON 4.

THE COAST-LINE OF ENGLAND.

Sandy Shore.

BEING nearly surrounded by the sea, and much indented, England has a great length of coast-line, extending for nearly 2000 miles.

2. A sea-coast that is high and rocky, and regular in outline, is not good for commerce; nor is a coast that is low, sandy, without openings, and with a shallow sea at its edge. Such coasts would not afford safe harbours for shipping.

3. But the coast of England is, in most parts, well suited for commerce. The sea runs far into it in deep bays, or long wide estuaries, and the high tides carry ships safely into the havens thus naturally formed. The high tides enable ships to ride safely over the dangerous sandbanks which are found near the coast, or, in some instances, in the wide estuaries.

4. Whilst so specially suited for commerce, the English shores present every kind of coast-line

scenery. Bold and lofty headlands; long and tapering capes; low, sandy beaches; tall white cliffs of chalk; and high and rugged cliffs of bare, hard rock, would all be seen in a voyage round the coast.

5. The east coast is very different from the west coast. The east is, for the most part, low and sandy, with here and there chalk cliffs, which are the terminations of ranges of chalk hills. Towards the north, this coast is bolder and more rocky. It has no wide bays, and its only openings are the estuaries of the rivers which flow into the North Sea.

6. The west coast is of a much bolder kind. The sea runs into it in deep wide bays, leaving steep and rocky headlands standing boldly out to sea, and seeming to defy the fury of the waves.

7. The south coast is like both the east and the west coasts. The half which lies towards the east is, like the east coast, low and regular, with chalk cliffs rising here and there. The half which lies towards the west is much more irregular in outline, and of a loftier and more rugged nature. In the south-west, the coast scenery is wild in the extreme, and consists of high, shaggy rocks, worn into all kinds of odd shapes by the great force of the Atlantic waves, and many of them crowned by the bright green plants which flourish on their summits.

8. The southern coast is most interesting as far as the early history of our land is concerned. It possesses many remains of old castles, ruined abbeys and churches, and various other relics which point

to the Roman, Saxon, and Norman occupation of England. Here and there remains of ancient earth-works, raised for defence hundreds of years ago, stand near such modern forts and batteries as we see at Portsmouth, Dover, and Plymouth.

9. You have now some idea of the *general* character of the coast-line of England. Our next lesson must give you its more *particular* features in the form of headlands and inlets.

sur-round'-ed	dan'-ger-ous	in-ter-est-ing	de-fence'
ex-tend'-ing	scen'-er-y	con-cerned'	gen'-er-al
reg'-u-lar	rug'-ged	pos-ses'-ses	char'-ac-ter
har'-bours	voy'-age	rel'-ics	par-tic'-u-lar
suit'-ed	lof'-ti-er	oc-cu-pa'-tion	fea'-tures
nat'-ur-al-ly	flour'-ish	an'-cient	head'-lands

in-dent'-ed, *cut up with wide gaps or openings.*
com'-merce, *trade.*
es'-tu-a-ries, *wide river mouths.*
tap'-er-ing, *narrowing to a point.*
ter-min-a'-tions, *ends.*
ir-reg'-u-lar, *crooked.*
sum'-mits, *tops, highest points.*
mod'-ern, *lately made, new.*

LESSON 5.

CAPES AND INLETS ROUND THE COAST.

THERE are very few headlands or promontories on the east coast of England. The boldest of them is **Flamborough Head**, or 'the head with the flames,' so called on account of the beacon fires which used to burn there before lighthouses were so common round our coasts. It is a high chalk cliff on the coast of Yorkshire.

2. South of Flamborough Head is **Spurn Head**, a low stretch of sand tapering to a point, and shaped

like a sickle. Here, as well as at other parts of the coast, the sea has been gradually making inroads on the land, and now washes over the site of some former villages. For instance, the seaport of Ravenspur, near Spurn Head, has been completely swept away. On the other hand, the land has risen on some parts of the coast, where may be seen banks of sand and gravel, mixed with shells, which stand above the reach of the highest tides.

3. From Spurn Head, along the shores of Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex, the coast is very low, with here and there chalk cliffs of no great height.

4. **Lowestoft Ness**, the most easterly point of England, and the **Naze**, are low points tapering out to sea, the point of the Naze turning towards the north.

5. Then come the **North** and **South Forelands**, which consist of high chalk cliffs. About three miles from the South Foreland stands the interesting town of Dover, whose old gray castle and tall white cliffs remind us of the early history of our country.

6. The chief inlets on the east coast are four in number. They are all river mouths, and three of them are of the greatest value for trade. The mouth of the **Tees** and the mouth of the **Humber** both command large shipping trade with the Continent. **The Wash** is quite useless for shipping, as it is very shallow, and opens on a low marshy tract of country. By far the most important opening is the estuary of the **Thames**, which is very wide, has high tides, offers easy entrance to ships, is close to the Continent, and has the largest shipping trade of any place in the world.

7. The eastern half of the south coast has but two headlands. One of these, **Dungeness**, is low and formed of clay, and stretches seaward for several miles in a heap of shingle, which is continually being left there by the tides; the other, **Beachy Head**, is a high chalk cliff, rising straight up to a height of over 500 feet above the level of the sea. So many sea-fowl gather on this bold headland, that when disturbed by the sound of a gun, they rise up in such numbers as almost to darken the air. In one part of the cliff there is a cavern of several lofty rooms hewn out of the solid rock. It is very probable that this was once the hiding-place of wreckers and smugglers, though a story says it was made by a clergyman named Darby, who used to go to the cave on dark stormy nights to show lights to ships in distress. It is called 'Parson Darby's Cave.'

Rocky Coast—Land's End.

8. On the western half of the south coast, the promontories are more numerous. **St Alban's Head**, **Portland Point**, and **Start Point** (a promontory of

hard rock), stand out from the shores of Dorset and Devonshire. **Lizard Point** and **Land's End** are two steep masses of hard rock, forming the farthest south and west points of England. The coast in this neighbourhood is very dangerous. Many sunken rocks lie out from it for some distance into the sea. The Lightships Rocks are the most noted of them.

9. Between these two headlands lies the lovely inlet of **Mount's Bay**, which takes its name from

St Michael's Mount.

St Michael's Mount, a cone-shaped rock of granite which stands in the bay about a quarter of a mile from shore, and is connected with the mainland by a causeway which is flooded at high water. This rock is about a mile in circumference, and 250 feet high. On its summit is a gentleman's residence, built in the style of a castle. At its base is a little fishing village.

pro'-mon-tor-ies	tap'-er-ing	con'-ti-nent	num'-er-ous
grad'-u-al-ly	in'-ter-est-ing	con-tin'-u-al-ly	neigh'-bour-hood
vil'-la-ges	es'-tu-a-ry	prob'-a-ble	dan'-ger-ous
com-plete'-ly	en'-trance	dis-tress'	con-nect'-ed

bea'-con, *danger-signal.*
cav'-ern, *a deep hollow in the rock.*
wreck-er, *one who plunders wrecks.*
gran'-ite, *a hard kind of stone.*
cone'-shaped, *shaped like a sugar-loaf.*
cause'-way, *a pathway or road.*
cir-cum'-fer-ence, *the measure round about.*
res'-i-dence, *home.*

LESSON 6.

CAPES AND INLETS—*continued.*

OTHER inlets on the south coast are **Tor Bay, Portsmouth Harbour, Southampton Water**, and **Plymouth Sound.** The three last named are great and important harbours. Portsmouth Harbour is the chief naval station of England. Here may be seen, at all times, some of our fine war-ships, besides the old *Victory*, on board of which Lord Nelson was killed at the famous battle of Trafalgar. Southampton Water is a fine estuary, about eleven miles long. The town of Southampton, at its head, is one of the chief stations for steam-ships to and from India, China, and Southern Europe. It is an ancient town, and is connected with many stirring events in English history. On the eastern shore of the water are the ruins of Netley Abbey, and the splendid military hospital which is called Netley Hospital. Plymouth Sound is noted for its fine granite breakwater, which is about a mile long. It was thirty years in building,

and it cost a million and a half of pounds. Tor Bay is considered the most beautiful inlet on the southern

coast. It forms a safe harbour for the numerous fishing-vessels which are employed on the coast.

2. The chief capes on the west coast are **Hartland Point, Worm's Head, St David's Head** (the western-

most point of Wales), **Great Orme's Head**, and **St Bee's Head.**

3. Great Orme's Head is a very bold and lofty limestone rock. There is a carriage drive round the face of this headland, where you may ride for five and a half miles with the sea hundreds of feet below, and overhanging rocks above you. The scenery is very grand, but it almost makes one feel giddy to look down at the sea below, or up at the rocks above.

4. There are four great openings on the west coast. **The Bristol Channel, Cardigan Bay, Morecambe Bay,** and **The Solway Firth.**

5. Of the four named, the Bristol Channel is the most valuable opening for trade. In addition to the hundreds of foreign vessels which enter it, the Channel has a very large coasting-trade. It is very wide, and round its shores are the smaller bays of *Carmarthen, Swansea, Bideford,* and *Bridgewater;* while at its entrance on the north is the fine harbour of Milford Haven, one of the largest and safest harbours in the kingdom.

6. Cardigan Bay is of little use for shipping. Its coast-line is not well suited for good harbours; no navigable rivers flow into it; and no towns of importance stand on its shores. Morecambe Bay is nearly dry at low water. The Solway Firth is noted for its low shores and rapid tides. At low water, long stretches of sand are left bare. It is very dangerous to cross these sands when the tide is coming in; it rushes so rapidly that people are sometimes overtaken by it and drowned.

7. Of the smaller openings on the west coast, the

fine estuary of the Mersey is by far the most important. The estuary of the Dee is so full of sandbanks, and has such low tides, that it is useless for shipping.

na'-val	con-nect'-ed	car'-riage	har'-bours
sta'-tion	splen'-did	scen'-er-y	im-port'-ance
Tra-fal'-gar	break'-wat-er	val'-u-a-ble	stretch'-es
es'-tu-a-ry	con-sid'-ered	for'-eign	dan'-ger-ous
an'-cient	num'-er-ous	en'-trance	ship'-ping

stir'-ring, *exciting.*

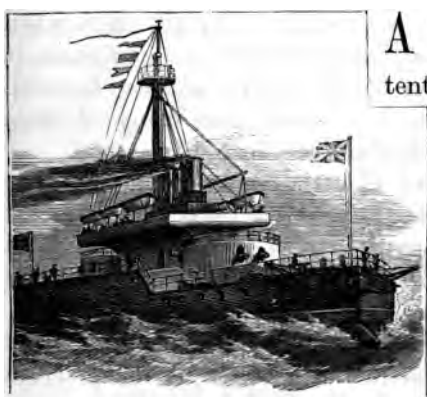
mil'-i-tar-y hos'-pit-al, *a place where sick soldiers are treated.*

lime'-stone, *stone composed chiefly of lime.*

nav'-i-ga-ble riv'-ers, *rivers up which vessels can sail.*

LESSON 7.

HOW THE COAST IS GUARDED.



An 'Ironclad.'

A COUNTRY with such a great extent of coast-line as England has, is guarded by nature from foreign enemies, as none can approach her except by the sea. Still, every precaution is taken to prevent such enemies from landing, should they ever venture to cross over, as they did hundreds of years ago.

2. At intervals round the coast, and especially in those parts nearest the Continent, strong **forts** are built, each being garrisoned with soldiers, and containing a supply of heavy guns. Some of the old castles are used as forts.

3. Modern forts are built in very different style from these. Many of them have their walls, which are not very high, covered with earth and overgrown with grass. This makes them look like parts of the hills upon which they stand when seen from a distance.

4. Then there are **coastguard stations** on various parts of the coast. No doubt some of you have seen a **coastguardsman** when spending your holidays at the seaside. He is dressed like a sailor, in blue costume, and is generally seen pacing up and down with a telescope under his arm. In the days when smugglers were so troublesome round the coast, it was the main duty of the coastguardsman to be on the lookout for them, and sad tales many of them could tell of their fights with these daring men.

5. But the *great* protection our country boasts around her coasts is her splendid **navy**—the largest and finest in the world—whose great victories from time to time have caused England to be called 'Queen of the Seas.'

6. The navy consists of 60 powerful ironclad ships of war, and about 180 iron and wooden vessels, manned by about 60,000 men.

7. The navy is stationed in portions at several ports along the coast, of which Portsmouth is the chief on the south, whilst Chatham and Sheerness

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ENGLAND AND WALES

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guard the entrance to the Thames on the east coast. You will readily understand why the larger portion should be placed on the south and south-east coasts, because these shores are near to the Continent.

8. Still further to protect her shores and her interests at home and abroad, England has an army of more than half a million of men, consisting of the regular soldiers, the militia, and the volunteers.

9. What a grand sight our naval and military forces would make, could they all be seen together!

10. It costs about twenty-six million pounds a year to support the army and navy! You are sure to ask 'Who finds the money for them?' Part of it is raised by **taxes**; part by **duties** paid upon imports; part by duties or taxes upon wines, beer, and other things made in the country; and another part still by postage and other stamps.

guard'-ed	in'-ter-vals	coast'-guards-man	vic'-to-ries
en'-e-mies	es-pe'-ci-al-ly	smug'-glers	sta'-tioned
ap-proach'	con-tain'-ing	trou'-ble-some	por'-tions
pre-vent'	sup-ply'	pro-tec'-tion	in'-ter-ests
ven'-ture	o-ver-grown'	splen'-did	vol-un-teers'

for'-eign, *coming from another country.*
gar'-ri-soned, *manned with soldiers.*
pre-cau'-tion, *timely care.*
cos-tume', *dress.*
tel'-e-scope, *an instrument for looking at distant objects.*

LESSON 8.

NAVAL ODE.

1. Ye Mariners of England!
   Who guard our native seas,
   Whose flag has braved a thousand years
   The battle and the breeze;

Your glorious standard launch again,
To match another foe,
And sweep through the deep,
While the stormy tempests blow;
While the battle rages long and loud,
And the stormy tempests blow.

2. The spirits of your fathers
Shall start from every wave!
For the deck it was their field of fame,
And ocean was their grave;
Where Blake and mighty Nelson fell,
Your manly hearts shall glow,
As ye sweep through the deep,
While the stormy tempests blow;
While the battle rages long and loud,
And the stormy tempests blow.

3. Britannia needs no bulwarks,
No towers along the steep;
Her march is o'er the mountain-waves,
Her home is on the deep:
With thunders from her native oak,
She quells the floods below,
As they roar on the shore,
When the stormy tempests blow;
When the battle rages long and loud,
And the stormy tempests blow.

4. The meteor-flag of England
Shall yet terrific burn,
Till danger's troubled night depart,
And the star of peace return.
Then, then, ye ocean-warriors!
Our song and feast shall flow

To the fame of your name,
When the storm has ceased to blow;
When the fiery fight is heard no more,
And the storm has ceased to blow.

Campbell.

guard	storm'-y	moun'-tain	trou'-bled
glo'-ri-ous	tem'-pests	me'-te-or	war'-ri-ors
launch	Brit-an'-ni-a	ter-rif'-ic	ceased

mar'-i-ners, *seamen.*
stand'-ard, *flag.*
bul'-warks, *fortifications.*
quells, *crushes or subdues.*

LESSON 9.

OLD CASTLES.

A DESCRIPTION of the coast would be incomplete if we did not notice the famous old castles, or ruins of them, which crown the cliffs and rocks in many places.

2. Many of them are so connected with the early history of our country, that the sight of them takes us back, in thought, to the times when they were its chief strongholds, and were bravely defended by skilful archers.

3. It would take a large volume to tell you all about these old castles, and the people who once dwelt within their walls. All we can do here is to call your attention to several of them. Many of them are found upon the south-eastern and southern coasts.

4. One of the finest castles in England is that of Bamborough, standing on a lofty cliff on the coast of Northumberland.

5. But you should climb the cliffs of Dover, and at a height of three hundred feet above the sea, you would find the most interesting of all our old castles. Some parts of Dover Castle were built in the time of the Romans, and looked down upon the landing of William the Conqueror, with his soldiers clad in armour, when he came over from Normandy. What

Dover Castle.

tales these old gray castle walls, about eight feet thick, could tell us!

6. Then comes Hastings Castle, all in ruins, and supposed to have been erected by William soon after his conquest in 1066.

7. Near the coast of Dorset are the grand and massive ruins of Corfe Castle, once the most famous stronghold in England. In the time of Charles I. this castle belonged to Sir John Bankes. During

the wars of that time, the castle was once bravely defended, in Sir John's absence, by Lady Bankes. The enemy came to the castle to demand four small cannon which were kept there, and the brave lady, who had only five men-servants and a few females with her, ordered one of the cannon to be fired at the enemy. She resisted the siege for some weeks, until help came to her.

8. On the Isle of Portland stand the ruins of Bow and Arrow Castle, which was once garrisoned by famous Norman archers.

9. At the entrance to Falmouth Harbour stands Pendennis Castle, a very strong fortress; and on the high rocks of the Cornish coast, Tintagel Castle, said to have been the birthplace of King Arthur.

10. At Carnarvon Castle the first Prince of Wales was born. It is the grandest of Norman castles, and its walls, which are still entire, inclose a larger area than those of any other castle in England.

11. Besides the old castles round the coast, there are many inland ones of great interest, some of which have strange and startling legends connected with them. As most of you are fond of tales and stories about fairies and giants, we will close this lesson with the curious tradition of Mulgrave Castle, without asking you to believe it.

12. Mulgrave Castle stands about four miles from Whitby in the north-east of Yorkshire, and about eighteen miles from it is Pickering Castle. It is said that a great Saxon giant, called Duke Wada, and his wife Bell, built these two castles themselves; but as they had only one hammer between them, they

were obliged to keep tossing it backwards and forwards from Pickering to Mulgrave, the one about to throw it giving a loud shout so that the other might be ready to catch it! There is a Roman road here which is also said to have been made by these giants. It is said that Bell carried the huge stones in her apron, while Wada laid them down! This giant is said to have been so great and strong, that even while he was a baby, he could throw a great piece of rock, weighing several tons, to a great distance!

de-scrip'-tion	con'-quer-or	mas'-sive	siege
vol'-ume	ar'-mour	de-fend'-ed	gar'-ri-soned
at-ten'-tion	sup-posed'	ab'-sence	cu'-ri-ous
in'-ter-est-ing	e-rect'-ed	can'-non	weigh'-ing

con-nect'-ed, *joined with.*
arch'-ers, *those who shot with bows and arrows.*
re-sist'-ed, *opposed.*
tra-di'-tion, *a story handed down from one person to another.*

LESSON 10.

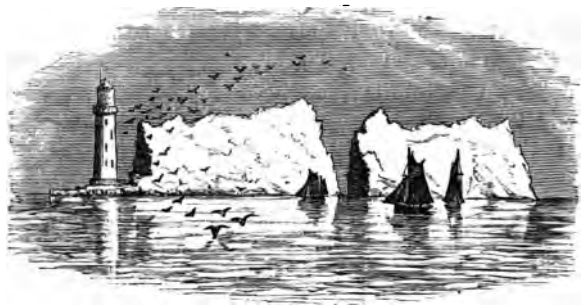
ISLANDS AND STRAITS.

THERE are but three islands of any great importance round the coast of England.

2. The most noted of these is the **Isle of Wight**, on the south coast, opposite Hampshire. It is separated from the mainland by the two straits called **The Solent** and **Spithead**, the latter of which forms a very safe harbour, capable of holding a thousand ships.

3. The island, which is twenty-one miles long by thirteen broad, is noted for its fertility and the

beauty of its scenery. The Queen resides there some part of the year in her beautiful home, Osborne House. Off the western extremity of the island lie The Needles, a cluster of sharp-pointed rocks



The Needles, Isle of Wight.

which make the entrance to The Solent from the west somewhat dangerous.

4. In sailing round this island, you would be much interested to see how well it is guarded. Numerous forts and coastguard stations stand in quick succession all round its coasts. Most of them are on lofty heights commanding a wide stretch of sea.

5. The **Isle of Anglesea** lies off the coast of North Wales, from which it is separated by the **Menai Strait.** The strait is crossed by two bridges—one a suspension and the other a tubular bridge, through which trains run. The little island of **Holyhead** almost joins Anglesea. The mail-packets for Dublin start from the pier at Holyhead.

6. The **Isle of Man** lies in the Irish Sea, about half-way between England and Ireland. It is about

thirty-three miles long by about twelve broad, and is a great seat of the herring and cod fisheries. It has its own laws and courts of law, and also its own parliament. The natives speak a peculiar language called Manx, which is somewhat like Welsh, and which is fast becoming disused.

7. Douglas is the capital of the island. Other towns are Castleton, Ramsey, and Peel, where there are ruins of a fine castle overlooking a broad stretch of sea.

8. About thirty miles south-west of Land's End lie the **Scilly Isles**, a group of upwards of one hundred in number. Only five of them are inhabited, most of the others being barren rocks. The largest is St Mary, which is between nine and ten miles in circumference. The inhabitants are chiefly engaged in farming, cattle-rearing, and fishing.

9. The Scilly Isles have been the scene of many fearful shipwrecks. In 1707, a portion of the English fleet was caught in a gale off these islands, and very soon four splendid war-ships were wrecked, and two thousand brave seamen sank beneath the waves.

Map of the Channel Islands.

10. The **Channel Islands** are situated in the English Channel, not very far from the coast of France, to which country they once belonged. The largest of them are Jersey,

Guernsey, Alderney, and Sark. Jersey is a very fertile and beautiful island, growing large quantities of vegetables and fruit. Alderney is celebrated for a small kind of cow, called the Alderney cow.

11. There are a few smaller islands near the coast, the chief of which are Holy Island, and the Farne Islands on the north-east, Sheppey Island off the north of Kent, Lundy Island and Walney Island.

12. The north-east corner of Kent, overlooking the **Straits of Dover**, was once an island, formed by the little river Stour, which cut it off from the rest of the county. It was called the **Isle of Thanet**, but is now no longer an island. Thanet was once held as an important position by the Danes, and the remains of one of their large cemeteries have been discovered near Ramsgate.

im-port'-ance	dan'-ger-ous	lan'-guage	quan'-ti-ties
op'-pos-ite	suc-ces'-sion	Manx	ve'-ge-ta-bles
cap'-a-ble	sep'-ar-at-ed	in-hab'-it-ants	cel'-e-brat-ed
scen'-er-y	her'-ring	chief'-ly	dis-cov'-ered

fer-til'-i-ty, *fruitfulness.*
ex-trem'-i-ty, *end.*
sus-pen'-sion, *hanging.*
tub'-u-lar, *formed like a pipe.*
pe-cu'-li-ar, *strange.*
cir-cum'-fer-ence, *measure round about.*
cem'-e-ter-ies, *burying-grounds.*

LESSON 11.

THE MOUNTAINS OF ENGLAND.

ENGLAND has a very varied surface, but it is not a mountainous country. Taken as a whole, the surface of England is varied enough to be pleasing to the eye, and at the same time is well

suited for traffic. It is not too mountainous to prevent the making of good roads, railways, and

Diagram map showing principal Physical Features of England and Wales.
(The shading represents tableland; the white lines, mountain ranges.)

canals. The greatest heights are in the north and west. The centre and eastern portions of the land

are of a gently undulating character, or, in some instances, broad level plains.

2. **The Pennine Range**, which forms the chief *watershed* of the country, extends from the *Cheviot Hills* on the borders of Scotland, to *The Peak* in Derbyshire, a distance of about 200 miles.

3. This range, the longest in England, consists of a high, broad tableland, at some points thirty or forty miles wide, mostly covered with bleak, treeless moorlands, and lofty hills. The chief heights are **Cross Fell, Mickle Fell, Whernside, Ingleborough,** and **Pen-y-gant.** Cross Fell is nearly 3000 feet high.

4. Some of the longest tunnels in England are cut through the Pennine Range. Perhaps the most noted of them is Woodhead Tunnel, through which you would pass in going from Manchester to Sheffield. It takes about seven minutes to pass through it, and as the tunnel is a double one, trains passing through in contrary directions are not visible to each other.

5. **The Peak** is the name given to a number of hills rising one behind the other for many miles, with deep narrow valleys or dales lying between them. Lovely streams flow through many of them, and thus help to make this district one of the most beautiful in England. It contains several caverns, about which many strange tales are told.

6. West of the Pennine Range, in the counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland, is the group of mountains known as the **Cumbrian Group.** You already know the difference between a *range* and a *group* of mountains.

7. The highest peak in the Cumbrian Group—and it is also the highest in England—is **Scafell**, which is 3210 feet high. It is a double-peaked mountain, the peaks being separated by a deep chasm. From its summit a very fine view of the Lake District is obtained, and also of a large extent of England, Wales, Scotland, and the Isle of Man. The next highest are **Helvellyn** and **Skiddaw**, both of which are over 3000 feet high. Helvellyn is a rugged granite mountain, on whose summit the winter's snow often lies till the month of July. Another mountain in this group has the curious name of High Street, because the old Roman road between England and Scotland goes right across the top of it. What a lonely walk! And what a contrast to the High Street which those of you who live in towns associate with noise and bustle.

8. This mountain-land is known in England as *The Lake District*, and is famous for its splendid scenery. The Cumbrian Group is very different in appearance from the wild and treeless Pennine Range. The mountains are mostly well wooded, and the valleys between are studded with bright, clear lakes, round which the peaks rise on all sides.

va'-ried	ex-tends'	con'-tra-ry	sep'-ar-at-ed
can-als'	con-sists'	vis'-i-ble	sum'-mit
heights	moor'-lands	dis'-trict	gran'-ite
un'-du-lat-ing	chief	cav'-erns	cu'-ri-ous
char'-ac-ter	tun'-nels	dif'-fer-ence	ap-pear'-ance

moun'-tain-ous, *containing many mountains.*
traf-fic, *trade, business.*
chasm, *a gap or opening.*
as-so'-ci-ate, *join.*
stud'-ded, *thickly covered.*

LESSON 12.

THE MOUNTAINS OF ENGLAND—*continued.*

THROUGH the long tapering peninsula of Devon and Cornwall runs the **Devonian Range**. This range contains the wild and extensive tablelands of **Dartmoor** and **Exmoor**.

2. Dartmoor is more than twenty miles across—a bleak and treeless district, extremely wild, and in various parts of it rise immense blocks of granite called *Tors*, which form the chief heights of the Devonshire mountains. The highest is *Yes Tor*, whose summit is about 2000 feet above the sea.

3. Exmoor is noted for its ponies, and as being the only place in England where the wild stag still wanders. The highest point on Exmoor is **Dunkerry Beacon**. It rises to a height of 1700 feet, and commands a fine view of the surrounding country.

4. The loftiest of the Cornish heights is Brown Willy, which is 1368 feet high.

5. There are many shorter ranges in England besides those already named, but they are known only by the name of *hills*.

6. Such are the **Cotswold Hills** in Gloucestershire; the **Malvern Hills** in Worcestershire; the **Mendip Hills** in Somersetshire; and the **Gogmagog Hills** in

Cambridgeshire. The Malvern Hills form a very pretty range, having twenty distinct summits. One of the highest of them, Herefordshire Beacon Camp, is an ancient British fortress.

7. The Cheviot Hills form part of the boundary-line between England and Scotland. In the days when the two countries were each ruled by a separate king, the people on either side the 'Border' were frequently at war with each other, their feuds often springing from most trifling causes. The hills afford good pasturage, and are famous for a breed of sheep called *Cheviots*.

8. In Shropshire is the **Wrekin**, a solitary peak, shaped like a sugar-loaf. It rises to a height of over 1300 feet, and is said to command a view of twelve different counties.

9. Then there are the low chalk ranges of the **North** and **South Downs**, nowhere more than 900 feet high, except the peak called Inkpen Beacon, which is nearly 1000 feet. The North Downs run through Hampshire, Sussex, and Kent; terminating in the North and South Forelands, and the cliffs of Dover. The South Downs stretch through the counties of Hampshire and Sussex. Both ranges afford fine pasturage, and are celebrated for a breed of sheep from which the famous Southdown mutton is obtained.

10. The highlands in the eastern part of the county of York are known by the name of the **Yorkshire Wolds**. These upland tracts, which consist chiefly of moorlands, extend through the northern part of the county of Lincoln, where they take the

name of the **Lincolnshire Wolds.** The country between them and the coast on the east is remarkably flat, forming the low-lying plain of *Holderness.*

11. Much of England's wealth is obtained from her mountains and hills.

pen-in'-su-la	sur-round'-ing	fre'-quent-ly	cel'-e-brat-ed
ex-ten'-sive	dis-tinct'	sol'-i-tar-y	ob-tained'
ex-treme'-ly	sep'-ar-ate	stretch	re-mark'-a-bly

ta'-per-ing, *becoming narrow towards the point.*
con-tains', *holds within its bounds.*
im-mense', *large.*
sum'-mit, *top.*
feuds, *quarrels.*
pas'-tur-age, *grass for cattle.*
ter'-min-at-ing, *ending.*

LESSON 13.

CURIOSITIES OF THE PEAK.

WE scarcely like to pass over the caverns of The Peak with the mere mention of them made in our last lesson. They are so deeply interesting, that some further information about them may help you to remember the remarkable district which terminates the Pennine Range.

2. On the top of a rock about 200 feet high, and overlooking the village of Castleton, stand the ruins of Peak Castle, which was a famous stronghold in the time of William the Conqueror.

3. At the foot of this rock is the entrance to the celebrated Peak Cavern. This entrance is a great archway in the rock, over 90 feet long, 120 feet wide, and about 40 feet high. Passing along this lofty porch, you reach another cavity, and in its dim light you see a little hut, where a guide waits ready to conduct you.

4. Some of you would feel almost afraid to follow the guide through a low doorway, leaving daylight behind, and proceeding on the journey by the shadowy light of candles.

5. The whole length of the cavern is above 2000 feet; and as you stoop to pass through some narrow

The Peak Cavern.

passage, or enter into a large vaulted chamber, sometimes you are startled by the loud rumbling of a mountain cataract in the distance.

6. A stream of water flows through the cavern, which you would have to cross several times in exploring the whole length of it, either on stepping-stones, or on the shoulders of the guide.

7. Another remarkable cavern is the Speedwell Mine. It is reached by a descent of one hundred

steps, and part of the journey through is made in a boat.

8. Some distance from this is the Blue John Cavern, which is the most beautiful of all the caverns. It is noted for a peculiar kind of mineral called Blue John stone, which hangs from the roofs and adorns the sides of the various chambers, making a very pretty effect as it glistens in the light thrown upon it from the guide's candles.

9. About three miles from Castleton, there is a famous mountain chasm known as Eldon's Hole, so deep that it was formerly thought to be fathomless. A very foolish story of the neighbourhood says, that this question was settled by an old woman's goose which flew down the hole and, after being given up for lost, made its appearance again at the mouth of the Peak Cavern! The journey of the goose was also regarded as a proof that the Peak Caverns are all connected with each other by the same stream.

10. In the neighbourhood of the Peak is Chatsworth House, the beautiful residence of the Duke of Devonshire. This 'Palace of the Peak' stands in a noble park, about eleven miles in circumference. Both house and park are in every sense beautiful. Mary, Queen of Scots, was a prisoner at Chatsworth for some years, and a small square tower in the gardens is pointed out as the spot where she spent many hours of her captivity.

men'-tion	en'-trance	rum'-bling	glis'-tens
in'-ter-est-ing	arch'-way	shoul'-ders	neigh'-bour-hood
in-for-ma'-tion	cav'-i-ty	de-scent'	ap-pear'-ance
dis'-trict	pro-ceed'-ing	pe-cu'-li-ar	re-gard'-ed
con'-quer-or	shad'-ow-y	min'-er-al	res'-i-dence

cav'-erns, *deep hollow places in the earth.*
ter'-min-ates, *ends.*
vault'-ed, *arched.*
cat'-ar-act, *a great waterfall.*
ex-plor'-ing, *going through and examining.*
chasm, *a deep hollow.*
fath'-om-less, *so deep that the bottom cannot be reached.*
cir-cum'-fer-ence, *measurement round about.*
cap-tiv'-i-ty, *imprisonment.*

LESSON 14.

THE WELSH MOUNTAINS.

WALES—and especially North Wales—is a land of grand mountains, lovely, narrow valleys, and wide tracts of dreary moorland, from which the mountain ranges rise.

2. The mountains of Wales are also known as the **Cambrian Mountains**—Cambria being the ancient name of Wales.

3. The loftiest of the Welsh mountains is **Snowdon**, the highest peak in the range of the same name. It rises to a height of 3570 feet, being nearly 400 feet higher than Scafell in England, but more than 800 feet lower than Ben Nevis in Scotland.

4. Snowdon commands views so extensive that, in very clear weather, the whole stretch of the Irish Sea may be seen, with the Wicklow Mountains in Ireland on the other side. At the foot of this mountain lies the famous pass of Llanberis. It is from the village of Llanberis, at the foot of this weird mountain-pass, that the ascent of Snowdon

is generally made by tourists. A well-marked pony-path leads right from the village to the summit of the mountain. The distance to the summit by this path is about five miles, and the journey occupies about three hours.

5. **Cader Idris** is the second mountain in height, being nearly 3000 feet high. There is a tradition connected with this mountain which will perhaps interest you. It is said that a giant named Idris, who was a great poet and astronomer, used to watch the stars from this mountain's summit. Tradition also says that the rock was shaped so as to form a chair in which Idris used to sit, and that, if a man sleeps upon one of the stones near this seat for a night, he awakes either a poet or a madman!

6. The **Plinlimmon Range** lies farther south than the two already mentioned, and is neither so high nor so rugged as Snowdon or Cader Idris.

7. Plinlimmon is noted as being the source of five rivers—the Severn, the Wye, and three smaller ones with Welsh names, which English children could not pronounce at first sight.

8. The highest peaks in South Wales are the **Brecknockshire Beacons**, about 2900 feet high. The Beacons of Brecknock were formerly used as a station for fire-signals in case an enemy came.

9. The mountain districts of North Wales abound in waterfalls, which rush from mountain heights into deep, wild, and beautiful dells, adding much grandeur to the scenery. Amongst the most famous of them are the *Swallow Falls* in Carnarvonshire, which fall from a height of over twenty feet, forming two

cascades, each thirty feet broad, besides several smaller ones. After falling into a pool, the waters form a second waterfall by flowing over a broad smooth rock.

10. The mountainous districts of Wales have long been celebrated for a breed of beautiful, good-tempered little ponies, which climb the mountain sides very briskly, and are content with the scanty fare which they find there.

11. The mountain fastnesses of Wales were the last retreat of the ancient Britons, as they were driven westward by the Saxon and Norman invaders of our country.

es-pe'-ci-al-ly	jour'-ney	for'-mer-ly	moun'-tain-ous
lof'-ti-est	oc'-cu-pies	sta'-tion	scan'-ty
com-mands'	tra-di'-tion	grand'-eur	re-treat'
weath'-er	men'-tioned	scen'-er-y	in-vad'-ers

a-scent', *way up.*
tour'-ists, *persons who are travelling or making a tour.*
as-tron'-o-mer, *one who studies the stars.*
pro-nounce', *speak distinctly.*
cas'-cades, *waterfalls.*
brisk'-ly, *quickly.*
fast'-ness-es, *strongholds, castles.*
an'-cient, *very old.*

LESSON 15.

VALLEYS AND PLAINS.

A GREAT part of the surface of England consists of broad river-valleys and extensive fertile plains.

2. The well-watered valleys afford fine pasturage for cattle; while the broad, drier plains are well suited for growing corn.

3. The most extensive plains lie to the east, south, and west of the Pennine Range. They are the **York**

Plain, the **Central Plain,** and the **Cheshire Plain.** The York Plain is watered by the Ouse. Each of these plains is very fertile, Cheshire being specially noted for its famous dairy produce, Cheshire cheese.

4. The **Central Plain** is mostly agricultural; but, in that part of it which includes South Staffordshire, the iron manufacture is carried on to such an extent, that the blazing furnaces engaged in smelting, and the dense smoke arising from them, have given this part of the plain the name of the *Black Country.*

5. The **Eastern Plain** extends through the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex. It is the most noted corn-growing district in England. This plain is separated from the Central by the East Anglian heights, a line of low chalk hills.

6. Around the shores of the Wash lies the lowest level plain in England, called **The Fenland.** This plain is too marshy to be fertile, except where the land has been drained. In the thirteenth century, this low-lying land was washed over by the sea, and was nothing but a dreary, unhealthy swamp. The sea washes over it in some parts at the present time, and banks have to be raised to prevent its flowing in.

7. One of the richest plains in England is the broad river-valley of the **Thames.**

8. One of the smallest of the English plains is that of the New Forest, Hampshire, which was made into a hunting-ground eight hundred years ago by William the Conqueror.

9. The broad **Valley of the Severn,** which lies to the west of the Central Plain, is noted for its fine pasturage and orchards.

10. **Salisbury Plain**, in Wiltshire, is really a table-land, the surface of which is not level, but undulating.

11. In the south of this plain is *Stonehenge*, a collection of huge stones, supposed to be the remains of a Druidical temple, or of a burying-place of the ancient Britons. It is the most interesting relic of its earliest inhabitants that our country possesses. The stones, some of which measure from 16 to 20 feet in height by about 7 feet wide and 3 feet thick,

Stonehenge.

are arranged in two circles, one within the other, with top-stones placed across them. In the centre is an altar-stone, at the foot of which have been found remains of stags, oxen, and other animals. The outer circle is surrounded by a raised bank of earth, about 15 feet high, and over 1000 feet round. Scattered over the plain are numerous barrows, some of which

have been opened and found to contain human bones, with fragments of British and Roman weapons and ornaments.

12. Between the North and South Downs, in Sussex and Kent, lies a plain called the **Weald**—a word which means *wood*. It was formerly a dense forest, and is still covered in part with trees and low brushwood. A considerable portion of it is under cultivation.

pas'-tur-age	fur'-na-ces	in'-ter-est-ing	weap'-ons
spe'-ci-al-ly	en-gaged'	in-hab'-it-ants	or'-na-ments
ag-ri-cul'-tur-al	col-lec'-tion	ar-ranged'	con-sid'-er-a-ble
man-u-fac'-ture	Dru-id'-i-cal	scat'-tered	cul-ti-va'-tion

ex-ten'-sive, *large.*
orch'-ards, *fruit gardens.*
un'-du-lat-ing, *gently rising and falling.*
frag'-ments, *broken parts.*
rel'-ic, *something left after all the rest is gone.*
bar'-rows, *mounds raised over graves.*
brush'-wood, *thick bushes.*

LESSON 16.

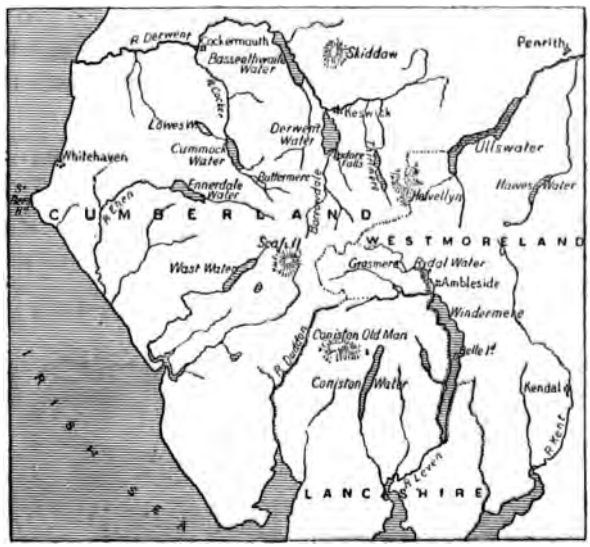
LAKES.

ENGLAND has but few lakes, and most of them lie amongst the Cumbrian Group of mountains. This mountain land, as has been said already, is known as the **Lake District**, and is noted for its beautiful lakes and lovely scenery. The lakes lie in long, narrow valleys, embosomed by the lofty and sometimes well-wooded mountain heights.

2. They are all of them small compared with the lakes of Scotland. **Windermere**, the largest, is about ten miles long, and a mile wide. Its

surface is adorned by a dozen pretty islets, which give the lake a beautiful appearance. The largest of them is called Belle Isle.

3. **Ulleswater** is the lake next largest in size. The



Map of the Lake District.

scenery round its shores is very bold, for it lies embedded among the greatest heights of the mountain group, Helvellyn standing out above the rest.

4. **Coniston Water** is about six miles long, and its scenery is very beautiful—the well-wooded mountain slopes rising all round it being studded with trees and lovely dwellings. Near the lake is a mountain known as Coniston Old Man.

5. About a mile from Windermere, and connected with it by the little river Rothay, is **Rydal Water**, a beautiful little lake, near which is Rydal Mount, once the home of the poet Wordsworth. If you ever visit Rydal Mount, you will scarcely wonder that the poet should have chosen it for a home.

6. **Derwentwater** is generally called 'the little gem of the lakes.' It is about three miles long and

Ulleswater.

one mile wide, and, like its larger rival Windermere, is dotted over with well-wooded islets. One of them is called the Floating Island, which appears above water every few years only, and but for a short time. On the east side of the lake are the famous *Barrow Falls* and the *Cataract of Lodore*, which

rush from the mountains at heights of upwards of 100 feet.

Rising and leaping,
Sinking and creeping,
Swelling and flinging,
Showering and springing,
Eddying and whisking,
Spouting and frisking,
Twining and twisting
Around and around.

7. Some of the smaller lakes are **Grasmere, Buttermere**, Crummock, and Bassenthwaite.

8. Most of the lakes abound in fish.

9. The largest lake in Wales is **Bala Lake**. It is about four miles long by three-quarters of a mile broad. The bottom of the lake is very rocky, and its water is noted for its clearness and purity. It is a famous lake for fishing.

10. There are numerous beautiful waterfalls among the mountains and lakes of North Wales.

dis'-trict	a-dorned'	em-bed'-ded	gen'-er-al-ly
com-pared'	ap-pear'-ance	con-nect'-ed	num'-er-ous

em-bos'-omed, *inclosed.*
cat'-ar-act, *a great waterfall.*
ed'-dy-ing, *moving round and round.*

LESSON 17.

THE RIVERS OF ENGLAND.

A GLANCE at the map of the river-system of England will at once show you that it is a well-watered country. The rivers flow in all directions, watering the valleys, fertilising the plains; forming

the great natural drains of the land, and the chief water-ways for its trade.

2. The main watershed of England, the Pennine

Range, runs from north to south, and the rivers whose basins it separates flow to the east and the west.

3. As this great watershed lies more to the west of the country, the rivers flowing eastward have a longer course to the sea than those running westward. The range is steeper on the west, therefore the rivers flowing from it in that direction have a more rapid course than those flowing east.

4. If you place the edges of two slates together in such a position that the incline of one shall be greater than that of the other, you know how much more rapidly a drop of water would run down the one with the steeper incline. Just so it is with the rivers flowing from either side of the watershed.

5. The elevated land which stretches across the southern portion of England from Salisbury Plain, and includes the North and South Downs, forms the smaller watershed of the country. If you look at the map for a moment, you will see that the rivers connected with this watershed are all of them short, and most of them flow to the south.

6. *The eastern slope* of England has not only the *longest* rivers; it has *more* rivers than either the western or southern slopes. Their basins, or the whole extent of land which they drain, are also the largest.

7. You no doubt know already of what great use rivers are to a country. You will remember how they drain the land, supply it with abundance of water for its numerous factories, and form the chief water-ways for trade.

8. A good river, that is, a river good for travelling and traffic, should be broad, deep, slow, and not subject to floods. Most of our English rivers are of

this character. They rise in low hills, are well supplied with water, run slowly, and, for the size of the country, have a long course to the sea. The tide goes far up our English rivers; hence many of them carry ships and barges both ways without expense. The flowing or rising tide carries them up the river into the heart of the land, and the ebbing tide helps the natural current of the rivers to carry them back to sea. The rivers flowing to the east are better adapted for commerce than those flowing west, owing to their longer courses and slower currents.

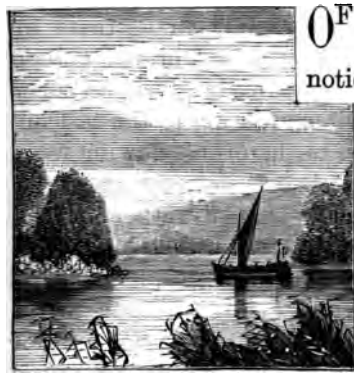
9. From these few facts, you will gather that its splendid rivers add much to the prosperity of our country in increasing its fertility and helping its trade. Like a country without coast-line, one without good rivers has many disadvantages. Its interior is generally dry and barren, and can be inhabited only near the coast, where most of its trade is carried on. Arabia is an example of such a country. It has no good rivers, and its interior is a vast desert, while the land near the coast is fertile.

di-rec'-tions	el'-e-vat-ed	trav'-el-ling	sup-plied'
wa'-ter-shed	con-nect'-ed	sub'-ject	cur'-rent
sep'-ar-ates	a-bun'-dance	char'-ac-ter	dis-ad-van'-ta-ges

fer'-til-is-ing, *making fruitful.*
in'-cline, *slope.*
traf'-fic, *trade.*
fac'-tor-ies, *large workshops.*
eb'-bing, *flowing back.*
com'-merce, *trade.*
in-creas'-ing, *enlarging.*
in-te'-ri-or, *inland part.*

LESSON 18.

THE CHIEF RIVERS OF ENGLAND.



OF all English rivers, the **Thames** claims our first notice, as being the most important. It rises in the Cotswold Hills in Gloucestershire, and, after a course of 200 miles through most interesting and varied scenery, discharges its waters into the North Sea.

2. At a distance of forty miles from its source, the Thames is deep enough for boats and barges to sail upon. Then it gradually widens out, and becomes more navigable until London is reached, and

The Thames Estuary.

its fine broad estuary presents one of the busiest scenes in the world.

3. The Thames is a splendid river for commerce. The tide runs up its channel for a distance of eighty miles; and it is deep and wide enough to allow the largest ships to sail as far up as London. Its position, too, commands great trade with the Continent.

4. The river is spanned at intervals by sixteen bridges. London Bridge is the one nearest the sea, being about forty miles distant from it. No doubt, many of you who read this book have crossed this busy bridge with its never-ending stream of people and vehicles.

5. The most important tributaries of the Thames are the *Lea*, the *Kennet*, and the *Medway*. The chief towns on its banks besides London are Oxford, Reading, and Windsor.

6. The **Trent** rises in the moorlands of Staffordshire, and has a course of 170 miles. It passes the towns of Stoke, Burton, Nottingham, and Newark, and carries their manufactures northward to the Humber. Its chief tributaries are the Derwent, on which stands the town of Derby; and the Soar, with Leicester on its banks.

7. The **Yorkshire Ouse** drains the county of York. It is about 150 miles long. This river has but one tributary, the Derwent, on its left bank. The others, the Swale, Ure, Nidd, Wharfe, Aire, and Don, are all on its right bank. Each of these tributaries flows through its own lovely dale to join the Ouse.

8. The Trent and the Ouse flow into the North Sea by one great estuary called the river **Humber**, which is second in size to the estuary of the Thames. It

affords very good harbours for ships at Hull and Grimsby.

9. The **Severn** is the longest river on the western slope of the country, but the **Mersey** is the most important.

10. The Severn is about 180 miles long, and rises in Plinlimmon Mountain. Nearly a third of its course is through Wales, and the remainder through the broad fertile valley which is skirted by the Cotswold, Mendip, and Malvern Hills. Its chief tributaries are the Wye and the Usk, on the right bank; and the Upper and Lower Avon, on the left.

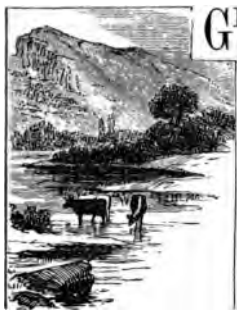
11. The **Mersey** is but a short river compared with the Thames or Severn, being only about sixty miles long. It is also narrow, but opens out into a fine broad estuary, capable of affording anchorage for hundreds of ships, and ranks next to the Thames in point of commerce. It has large trade with Ireland and America, and the large quantities of raw cotton which are landed here from the latter country, have given Liverpool the name of the cotton port. A tunnel under the bed of the estuary, from Liverpool to Birkenhead, is about three-quarters of a mile long, and is to be used for a railway. A similar one, about three miles long, has also been made under the bed of the Severn.

es'-tu-a-ry	in'-ter-vals	cap'-a-ble	com'-merce
bus'-i-est	re-main'-der	af-ford'-ing	quan'-ti-ties

dis-char'-ges, *sends out.*
grad'-u-al-ly, *little by little.*
nav'-i-ga-ble, *deep enough for ships to sail up.*
spanned, *crossed over.*
ve'-hi-cles, *carriages, carts, &c.*
trib'-u-tar-ies, *streams which flow into other rivers.*
skirt'-ed, *bordered round.*
an'-chor-age, *space for anchoring.*

LESSON 19.

SMALLER RIVERS.



GLANCE at the map again for a moment, and you will see that England has many rivers much shorter than those mentioned in the previous lesson.

2. Flowing eastward from the northern end of the Pennine Range, there are the **Tyne**, **Wear**, and **Tees**—three comparatively small but very important rivers. They flow through one of the busiest districts in England. In their estuaries, you would see ships loaded with coal, iron goods, chemicals, and many other productions of the neighbourhood, which are shipped to foreign countries. You would also see foreign ships from the countries round the Baltic Sea, bringing in imports in the form of timber, corn, flour, wine, and many other products.

3. The Wash receives the waters of four rivers—the **Witham**, the **Welland**, the **Nen**, and the **Great Ouse**. Of these the Ouse is by far the longest, having a course of about 150 miles. These four rivers are of very little use except for draining the districts through which they flow. They make their sluggish course through the low, marshy district of the Fens, and empty themselves into an arm of the sea which is too shallow to admit of ships entering it.

4. There are several small rivers on the eastern

plain, all of them useless for traffic. On the **Yare** stands Yarmouth, so famous for its herring-fisheries.

5. The rivers of the south coast are small and unimportant, few of them exceed fifty miles in length, and their courses are rapid. The **Itchin** falls into Southampton Water; the **Avon** flows through Salisbury and the New Forest; the **Exe** gives its name to Exeter and Exmouth. The **Dart** has along its banks some of the prettiest scenery in England. It rises in the tableland of Dartmoor, and, after a very swift descent from the moor, becomes navigable for the rest of its short course.

6. The **Dee**, on the western slope, is a much longer river than the Mersey, but of very little use for commerce. Its broad estuary is so shallow that, at low tide, its sandy bed is almost dry. The greater part of the course of the Dee is through North Wales.

7. Two other small rivers on this slope are the **Ribble** and the **Eden**—the latter, one of the loveliest streams in England.

8. Although many of our smaller rivers are useless for trade, they are of great service in other respects. They drain and fertilise the land, and add no little beauty to its aspect.

9. Most of the Welsh rivers are short and rapid, forming numerous waterfalls in their course. They generally flow through lovely mountain valleys, and, as their waters abound in fish, their banks are much frequented by summer tourists who are fond of angling. The Taff, on which stands the port of Cardiff, is about forty miles long.

10. When we remember that all the rivers and

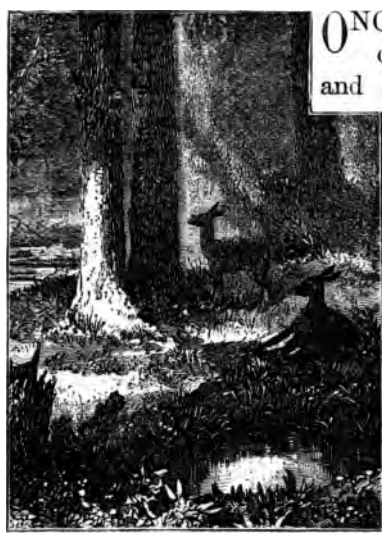
their tributaries are fed by numbers of little streamlets flowing into them from all directions, we may be sure that no part of our country remains to any extent unwatered.

men'-tioned	pro-duc'-tions	re-ceives'	de-scent'
pre'-vi-ous	neigh'-bour-hood	traf'-fic	fer'-til-ise
dis'-tricts	for'-eign	pret'-ti-est	un-wa'-tered

com-par'-a-tive-ly, *compared with others.*
chem'-i-cals, *substances used in chemistry.*
slug'-gish, *very slow.*
shal'-low, *not deep.*

LESSON 20.

FORESTS.



ONCE upon a time—in the days when the Romans and Saxons invaded our country — a great part of England was covered with forests. At that time its inhabitants were very few. They lived in a half-civilised state, hunting in the forests, and living chiefly on the animals killed in the chase, together with the wild roots and herbs which the country produced. They grew corn only on the strips round the southern coast.

2. But as Roman, Saxon, and Norman, one after the other, took possession of the land, its population gradually increased. More space was needed for the people to dwell upon, more food required for their use.

3. Then trees were cut down, the timber used in building wooden houses, and much of the space which they covered was placed under cultivation. Previous to the discovery of coal, wood was used as fuel; but if our supply of coal failed now, there would not be enough wood in the country to carry on our manufactures, or to supply our homes with fuel for any length of time.

4. In this way, the forest-lands gradually disappeared, until, in the present day, we have very little trace of them left. The space they once covered is now occupied by towns, busy factories, waving corn-fields, roads, canals, and railways.

5. The largest remaining one is **New Forest** in Hampshire. It was set apart by William I. as a royal hunting-ground, and it was here that his son William II. was killed by an arrow. This forest is noted for its fine oaks and beautiful scenery.

6. The **Forest of Dean** lies between the Severn and the Wye, and is famed for the coal-mines which, however, have somewhat spoiled its pretty scenery.

7. **Windsor Forest** is part of the royal estate of Windsor Castle, the residence of the queen. It was formerly much more extensive than it is now.

8. **Epping Forest**, in Essex, is of considerable size. It is the only portion left of the extensive forest-land which once lay north and south of London. From

time beyond memory, the hard-working people of London have roamed in this pretty forest. Formerly, it was the custom to allow a stag to escape in the forest to be hunted by the citizens of London. The building of residences, and formation of new towns, took away so much of the forest, that Londoners began to fear they would at last lose sight of it altogether. But by an act of Parliament in 1882, the queen was enabled to declare the place open for all time, for the use and enjoyment of the people.

9. Very little now remains of **Sherwood Forest** in Nottinghamshire. You will remember how this forest was the home of bold Robin Hood and his band of well-skilled archers. What a terror they were to wealthy travellers! Yet we are told that neither he nor his followers, not even the giant Little John, ever hurt or killed anyone.

10. Although the dense and extensive forests have almost disappeared, England is still a well-wooded country. Patches of woodland and copse add beauty to its scenery, and the oak, elm, birch, fir, poplar, beech, chestnut, and hazel still flourish. Several kinds of willows are plentiful—their soft pliant branches being used chiefly in basket-making.

in-vad'-ed	pos-ses'-sion	dis-ap-peared'	for-ma'-tion
cov'-ered	pop-u-la'-tion	oc'-cu-pied	par'-lia-ment
in-hab'-it-ants	in-creased'	beau'-ti-ful	de-clare'
civ-il-ised'	cul-ti-va'-tion	res'-i-dence	tra'-vel-lers
pro-duced'	man-u-fac'-tures	con-sid'-er-a-ble	ex-ten'-sive

copse, *low wood for cutting.* | pli'-ant, *easily bent.*

LESSON 21.

ENGLAND'S OAK.

1. Let India boast its spicy trees,
Whose fruit and gorgeous bloom
Give to each faint and languid breeze
Its rich and rare perfume:
Let Portugal and haughty Spain
Display their orange groves;
And France exult her vines to train
Around her trim alcoves:

2. Old England has a tree as strong
As stately as them all,
As worthy of a minstrel's song
In cottage and in hall.
'Tis not the yew-tree, though it lends
Its greenness to the grave;
Nor willow, though it fondly bends
Its branches o'er the wave;

3. Nor birch, although its slender tress
Be beautifully fair—
As graceful in its loveliness
As maiden's flowing hair.
'Tis not the poplar, though its height
May from afar be seen;
Nor beech, although its boughs be dight
With leaves of glossy green.

4. All these are fair, but they may fling
Their shade unsung by me;
My favourite and the forest's king,
The British Oak shall be!

Its stem, though rough, is stout and sound;
Its giant branches throw
Their arms in shady blessings round,
O'er man and beast below;

5. Its leaf, though late in spring it shares
The zephyr's gentle sigh,
As late and long in autumn wears
A deeper, richer dye.
Type of an honest English heart,
It opes not at a breath;
But having opened, plays its part
Until it sinks in death.

6. Its acorns, graceful to the sight,
Are toys to childhood dear;
Its mistletoe, with berries white,
Adds mirth to Christmas cheer.
And when we reach life's closing stage,
Worn out with care or ill,
For childhood, youth, or hoary age,
Its arms are open still.

7. But prouder yet its glories shine,
When, in a nobler form,
It floats upon the heaving brine,
And braves the bursting storm;
Or when, to aid the work of love,
To some benighted clime
It bears glad tidings from above,
Of gospel truths sublime;

8. Oh! then, triumphant in its might
O'er waters dim and dark,
It seems in Heaven's approving sight
A second glorious Ark.

On earth the forest's honoured king!
Man's castle on the sea!
Who will, another tree may sing—
Old England's Oak for me!

Bernard Barton.

gor'-geous	love'-li-ness	type	hoar'-y
lan'-guid	fa'-vour-ite	grace'-ful	ap-prov'-ing
min'-strel	au'-tumn	mis'-tle-toe	hon'-oured

per'-fume, *sweet smell.*
haugh'-ty, *proud.*
ex-ult', *rejoice.*
al'-coves, *shady retreats.*
dight, *decked or adorned.*
zeph'-yr, *gentle breeze.*
opes, *opens.*
brine, *ocean.*
be-night'-ed, *very ignorant.*
tri-umph'-ant, *victorious.*

LESSON 22.

HAUNTS OF WILD ANIMALS, ETC.

IN the days when our country was covered with forests, the bear, wolf, beaver, and wild boar roamed through them at will.

2. The country swarmed with wolves, which in winter so infested the homesteads of the Anglo-Saxons, that they used to call January the wolf-month. We are told that King Edgar ordered a Welsh prince, whom he had conquered, to pay a tribute of three hundred wolves' heads each year for three years, as a means of

destroying these animals. Wolvesly Castle near Winchester is said to be the place where these heads were annually brought to the king.

3. But, as the country became more thickly peopled, and forests were cut down, the wild animals gradually disappeared, until those mentioned above became quite extinct.

4. We have now but few wild animals. The cunning and mischievous **fox** is perhaps the most troublesome. Others are the **weasel, badger, hare, rabbit, otter**, and **squirrel**. The largest is the **deer**, which is preserved in many private parks.

5. The fox, the badger, the rabbit, and the otter live in burrows. The fox makes his within easy distance of some farm-yard or game-preserve. The badger burrows in the deep recesses of some quiet wood; the rabbit delights in steep banks overhung with brushwood; the otter's haunt is always near the banks of some stream in which fish abound. The hare does not burrow, but makes its 'form' amongst herbage and ploughed land. The pretty little squirrel has its home in the woods, where it makes its nest of moss, roots, grass, and leaves, and lives on nuts, acorns, and the bark of young branches.

6. Our **English birds** are noted for the beauty of their song rather than the gaiety of their plumage.

7. Those of you who live in the country have often heard the woods gay with the songs of the thrush, linnet, blackbird, warbler, goldfinch, and many other small birds. You are all familiar with the sparrow, and the pretty little robin which becomes so tame in winter.

8. Then, in the month of May, comes the nightingale, warbling its lovely song in the darkness of night, tempting us to a late walk for the pleasure of hearing it. Spring also brings the cuckoo. How strange that this bird should never build a nest, but lay its eggs in that of some other bird!

9. One of our most beautiful songsters is the lark —'the bird that soars on highest wing,' and builds its nest on the ground.

10. The kingfisher is one of our prettiest birds. It inhabits holes or burrows on the banks of streams, spending much of its time in catching fish, which form its chief food.

11. We must not omit the noisy rooks, nor the birds of prey—the eagle, the hawk, and the owl—the last often found in farm buildings, which it clears of mice.

12. Pheasants, partridges, and grouse are chief amongst our **game-birds.** Wild-fowl of various kinds are caught in the Fens.

13. Numerous **sea-birds** visit our coasts—gulls, puffins, petrels, guillemots, and many kinds of ducks.

14. There are but few **reptiles** in England—the only one whose bite is poisonous is the adder. The common snake is quite harmless, so also are the toad and frog, both of which will become tame if we keep them in our gardens long enough. They are extremely useful in a garden, for they destroy the slugs and snails which rob us of our fruit. It is a great mistake to drive them away, and a greater cruelty to abuse them in any way. The blindworm, the smallest of the British snakes, is a harmless

creature, though often killed by boys in ignorance of its innocent habits.

15. Our domestic animals, the horse, cow, sheep, dog, and cat, are all well known to you. You know their many uses and their faithfulness. All alike claim your kindness, and are grateful for it.

home'-steads	men'-tioned	pleas'-ure	ex-treme'-ly
Jan'-u-ar-y	mis'-chiev-ous	cuc-koo'	cru'-el-ty
con'-quered	trou'-ble-some	pheas'-ants	ig'-nor-ance
de-stroy'-ing	pre-served'	guil'-le-mots	in'-no-cent
dis-ap-peared'	fa-mil'-iar	pois'-on-ous	faith'-ful-ness

in-fest'-ed, *greatly troubled.*
trib'-ute, *something paid to a superior as an act of submission.*
ann'-u-al-ly, *every year.*
ex-tinct', *not now to be found.*
bur'-rows, *holes in the earth.*
re-cess'-es, *nooks.*
plum'-age, *feathers of a bird.*
rep'-tiles, *animals that crawl on their bellies or with very short legs.*
do-mes'-tic, *belonging to the home.*
grate'-ful, *thankful.*

LESSON 23.

THE CLIMATE OF ENGLAND.

OUR climate is a very **changeable** one. Rain and sunshine, cold and heat, so often follow each other in quick succession, that a long time of either is quite a subject for remark. Many countries have much more rain than we have; but it falls in torrents only at certain seasons of the year, and the inhabitants know when

to expect 'the rainy season.' Our rainfall is spread over a great part of the year, and is not so *heavy* when it comes, though it is very *uncertain.*

2. It is not desirable, considering the pursuits which English people follow, that we should have long-continued heat, cold, or rain. The farmer will tell you how too much heat will parch the ground, and make it unproductive; how the hard frost will prevent tillage and spoil the fruit; how continuous heavy rains will damage the crops of hay, corn, potatoes, &c.

3. Those who toil in the open air, such as builders, road-makers, and others, often find that the changeable weather seriously hinders their work.

4. But though so changeable, our climate is a **temperate** one. It is never so hot, nor so cold, as to cause all labour to be suspended for any length of time, as is often the case in countries farther south or north. In countries farther south it is too hot to work in the middle of the day, and most people go to sleep or rest for a few hours; whilst in more northern countries it is so cold that the rivers are frozen over for a considerable part of the year. We never have such extremes of heat and cold in England, hence our climate is said to be temperate. In countries where there is a very long time of intense heat, followed by heavy torrents of rain, people have diseases which are unknown in England, and such climates are far less healthy on the whole than our very changeable one.

5. England's insular position has a great deal to do with her temperate climate. The winds which blow

from the Atlantic Ocean cool the summer's heat, and temper the winter's cold. They also carry with them a great deal of moisture or vapour from the ocean, much of which rests on the mountains of the west, and makes that part of the country more rainy than the east.

6. Though so changeable, and generally moist, our climate is **healthy**. Many people live to a good old age if temperate in their habits. The **marshy** district round the Wash is considered somewhat **unhealthy**, but many old people will be found who **have** lived there all their lives.

7. The eastern side of England is colder **than** the western. It is exposed on its northern portion **to** the cold north winds which bring the snow, **and also to** the dry, unpleasant east winds, which **we have** more particularly in the month of **March.**

8. The western side is favoured **with the warm** winds which blow over from the Atlantic **Ocean.** The moisture which they bring with them **tempers** the heat, and makes this side of our country, **especially** the south-western portion of it, extremely **fertile and** beautiful. Vegetables and fruits arrive at **perfection** early in the year, while flowers and plants which are usually reared tenderly in greenhouses, flourish out of doors with very little care at all.

change'-a-ble	de-sir'-a-ble	se'-ri-ous-ly	un-health'-y
suc-ces'-sion	un-pro-duc'-tive	dis-eas'-es	par-tic'-u-lar-ly
ten'-rents	con-tin'-u-ous	pos-i'-tion	per-fec'-tion
un-cer'-tain	po-ta'-toes	cli'-mate	flour'-ish

pur-suits', *employments.*
til'-lage, *cultivation.*
tem'-per-ate, *mild.*
sus-pend'-ed, *stopped.*

in'-su-lar, *being surrounded by water.*

va'-pour, *water floating in the air in the form of clouds.*

ex-posed', *open to.*

LESSON 24.

HOLIDAY RAMBLES.

IN these days when travelling is so cheap and so quick, people who can afford it are apt to stray away to foreign lands for change of scene, leaving unnoticed the lovely spots and varied scenery of our own country.

2. You have learned from the previous lessons that England has its mountains and valleys, hills and dales, moorlands and fenlands, forests and woodlands. Add to these its ancient castles and noble cathedrals, its numerous streams and mightier rivers, and, last but not least, its fine extent of coast-line, and you will see that we need not go far from home, on our holiday rambles, for change of scene.

3. Where shall we go? For beautiful mountain

scenery, to the Lake District of Cumberland and Westmoreland, with its well-wooded mountain heights, clear and sparkling lakes, rippling streams, rushing waterfalls, shady nooks, country lanes, and mountain paths. Here all nature looks gay and beautiful.

4. For mountain scenery more wild and dreary, yet grand, our holiday stroll should be in the Snowdon District of North Wales. Lofty rugged heights, mountain gorges, through which streams flow to the narrow valleys beneath, and weird mountain-passes, form the chief features of the grand scenery which makes this district so famous.

5. For picturesque beauty, bracing air, abundant natural charms, lovely dales, romantic caverns, and pretty mountain streams, no part of our country is of such interest as the Peak District of Derbyshire. A tour on foot through the Peak is a holiday ramble to be remembered.

6. One of the most interesting spots in Derbyshire is the pretty little mountain village of Eyam. In the year 1666, almost the whole of its inhabitants were cut off by the Great Plague which was then raging in London. It is said that the disease was carried to Eyam in a box of clothes and tailors' patterns, which was sent from London to a tailor in the village. The tailor was the first victim, and the disease spread so rapidly, that in a very short time 260 people died out of a population of 350.

7. For those who love to wander through forest and woodland, no more beautiful stroll can be suggested than one through the New Forest in Hampshire. Here, through glade and covert; through

tangled masses of oak, beech, ash, alder, holly, and honeysuckle; on mossy carpet, decked with ferns, the holiday-maker may ramble and enjoy some of the loveliest scenes of Nature. A stone, called the Rufus Stone, marks the spot in this forest where William II. met his death.

8. A twilight stroll through New Forest is specially charming. All is hushed for a time, for the birds have gone to rest. But presently the twilight song of the blackbird is heard, and as night steals on, it gives way to the sweet song of the nightingale, which thrills through the woods when all other songsters are silent. By this time, too, the wood is beautified by the glow-worms, which light up the gorse that grows so abundantly. Thus the whole scene becomes one of light and song—looking strangely like those we read of in fairy-tales.

for'-eign	pic-tur-esque'	pat'-terns	twi'-light
un-no'-ticed	re-mem'-bered	pop-u-la'-tion	night'-in-gale
pre'-vi-ous	in'-ter-est-ing	sug-gest'-ed	song'-sters
ca-the'-drals	plague	hon'-ey-suc-kle	beau'-ti-fied

nook, *corner.*
fea'-tures, *marks.*
gorge, *a deep, narrow place in the hills.*
a-bun'-dant-ly, *plentifully.*

LESSON 25.

HOLIDAY RAMBLES—*continued.*

THE beautiful forest of Epping is exceedingly interesting. Queen Elizabeth was very fond of Epping Forest, and had a residence here, part of which still stands. She used to allow the poor

people who lived on the forest-lands to cut wood for fuel from the forest during the winter months of the year.

2. The county of Devon presents a strange variety of scenery. Wild moors, fertile valleys, steep hills,

A Devonshire scene—The Countess's Weir, near Exeter.

cliffs of pink and gray marble, smiling fields, thick-blossoming orchards, mark the features of this lovely county.

3. The Isle of Wight, with its interesting coast-line and ever-varying inland scenery, offers a choice spot

for a holiday stroll. Remains of a Roman villa, discovered some years ago, and said to belong to the fourth century, point to the very early occupation of the island by the Romans. In the centre of the island is Carisbrooke Castle, where Charles I. was imprisoned for a time. Here, too, his daughter the Princess Elizabeth died, some little time after her father's execution. The rooms which were occupied by the king and his daughter are still pointed out, and strike one as having been a poor abode for royalty.

4. For scenery strangely different from any already described, you should pay a visit to the flat and marshy fens which lie for some miles around the Wash. Here you would find no hills and dales, but dikes, ditches, windmills, and pollard willows as plentiful as flowers in May. But though so flat and tame, this district is not uninteresting. It is interesting to learn how the land has been drained, and to watch the process which still goes on. After heavy rains, the land is covered in many parts with water; and as it is then almost impossible to distinguish where the deep dikes are, it is dangerous to go from one place to another. A stranger would have to be guided by some one well acquainted with the dikes. If he ventured alone, he would probably be drowned. Sunset in the fens is often very lovely.

5. The numerous watering-places round our coast, such as Scarborough, Brighton, and Llandudno, are perhaps better known than the places of interest in the interior of the country. Some of them are very beautiful, with their grand cliffs, lovely bays, or wide stretch of sands.

6. To see our land to perfection, holiday rambles should be made mostly on foot. Something of the real charms of English scenery will then be understood, and with eyes full of interest, and heart full of gratitude to the bountiful Giver of all earth's beauties, the Englishman will find that travelling at home yields much pleasure.

ex-ceed'-ing-ly	im-pris'-oned	im-pos'-si-ble	in-te'-ri-or
blos'-som-ing	ex-e-cu'-tion	ac-quaint'-ed	per-fec'-tion
orch'-ards	de-scribed'	ven'-tured	boun'-ti-ful
oc-cu-pa'-tion	pro'-cess	drowned	tra'-vel-ling

pol'-lard, *bare.* | dis-tin'-guish, *tell.*

grat'-i-tude, *thankfulness.*

LESSON 26.

THE HOMES OF ENGLAND.

1. The stately homes of England,
   How beautiful they stand,
   Amidst their tall ancestral trees,
   O'er all the pleasant land!
   The deer across their greensward bound,
   Through shade and sunny gleam;
   And the swan glides past them with the sound
   Of some rejoicing stream.

2. The merry homes of England!
   Around their hearths by night,
   What gladsome looks of household love
   Meet in the ruddy light!
   There woman's voice flows forth in song,
   Or childhood's tale is told,
   Or lips move tunefully along
   Some glorious page of old.

3. The blessed homes of England!
How softly on their bowers
Is laid the holy quietness
That breathes from Sabbath hours!
Solemn, yet sweet, the church-bell's chime
Floats through their woods at morn;
All other sounds, in that still time,
Of breeze and leaf are born.

4. The cottage homes of England!
By thousands on her plains,
They are smiling o'er the silvery brooks,
And round the hamlet fanes.
Through glowing orchards forth they peep,
Each from its nook of leaves;
And fearless there the lowly sleep,
As the bird beneath their eaves.

5. The free fair homes of England!
Long, long, in hut and hall,
May hearts of native proof be reared
To guard each hallowed wall!
And green for ever be the groves,
And bright the flowery sod,
Where first the child's glad spirit loves
Its country and its God.

Mrs Hemans.

re-joic'-ing house'-hold qui'-et-ness thou'-sands
glad'-some tune'-ful-ly Sab'-bath hal'-lowed

an-ces'-tral trees, *old trees.* | green'-sward, *green turf.*

LESSON 27.

VARIOUS EMPLOYMENTS OF THE PEOPLE.

WITH a population of over twenty-six millions of people, 'some must toil and some must spin' before we can have food to eat or clothing to wear.

2. Our country has many *natural* productions in the form of minerals and metals of various kinds. As these mostly lie hidden in the deep recesses of the earth, mines must be sunk and quarries hewn out in order to reach them.

3. **Mining** and **quarrying** give employment to a large number of the population, over 350,000 being engaged in coal-mining alone.

4. The produce of the mines finds work for several millions of people—the **metal-workers**—who make all kinds of useful articles, from a pin to a steam-engine.

5. The stone which the quarryman turns out is used by **builders** and **road-makers** in the construction of houses and other buildings, and in the making and repairing of our roads and streets.

6. About one-fourth of the population is employed in **agriculture**, that is, the cultivation of the soil for the growth of food. Numerous trades depend upon this cultivation of the soil, for the **millers**, the **bakers**, the **brewers**, and the **biscuit-makers** would have nothing to do if no corn were grown for them to prepare for food.

7. By far the greater portion of the people is

occupied in **manufactures**, that is, the making of raw materials into articles of use.

8. **Metal-workers, cotton-spinners, cloth-weavers, tanners, silk-weavers, earthenware-makers,** and **ship-builders** are all included under the head of *manufacturers.*

9. Then what numbers of people find occupation in making the cotton, woollen, silk, and leather into articles of clothing and furnishing—**tailors, shoemakers,** and many others, too numerous to mention here.

10. A very large number of people are employed in the **commercial trade** of the country. **Carriers** by road, water, and railway in the interior of the country, and **fishermen** and **sailors** on the sea, are all engaged in commerce.

11. There is always an extensive emigration from England—many people going to seek work and fortune in our colonies and other far-off lands. In this way many of our important colonies have been peopled, cultivated, and had their trade opened up.

12. The English are a very industrious people, and their cleverness has led them to invent many things which have made them famous, and helped them to work more easily.

pop-u-la'-tion	en-gaged'	cul-ti-va'-tion	earth'-en-ware
re-cess'-es	en'-gine	oc'-cu-pied	art'-i-cles
quar'-ry-ing	re-pair-ing	man-u-fac'-tures	fur'-nish-ing
em-ploy'-ment	ag'-ri-cul-ture	ma-te'-ri-als	com-mer'-ci-al

em-i-gra'-tion, *leaving one country to dwell in another.*

in-dus'-tri-ous, *hard-working.*

in-vent', *find out.*

LESSON 28.

COAL-FIELDS.

COAL is by far the most important of our mineral productions, not only on account of the large quantities in which it is found, but owing to the many uses to which it is applied. Its chief uses are in the smelting of metals, and the supplying of steam-power to factories and ships.

2. It also warms our houses, cooks our food, and supplies us with the gas which lights our homes, streets, and public buildings. Fifty years ago, most of our mills and factories were worked by the water-power of rivers; but since the invention of the steam-engine, few mills are driven by water. The powerful steam-engines of our factories and railways, which are fed with coal, now do much more work than all the rivers of the country taken together.

3. There are five very large coal-fields in England and Wales. The largest in England is the **Yorkshire, Derby,** and **Nottingham Coal-field,** which supplies nearly one-fifth of all the coal which is raised in the country.

4. The *richest* coal-field is that of **Northumberland** and **Durham.** It is said to yield nearly one-quarter of all the coal produced in England and Wales.

5. The next largest coal-field is that of **Lancashire.** The mines round the town of Wigan on this coal-field produce a very fine kind of cannel coal, from which the best gas is made.

6. Next in size comes the **Staffordshire Coal-field,**

extending through the 'Potteries' of North Staffordshire and the 'Black Country' of South.

7. There are several other coal-fields smaller in size and not so rich, namely, the **Gloucester** and

Map of the Principal Coal-fields in England and Wales.

Somerset, Cumberland, Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Shropshire, and the **Forest of Dean.**

8. The **South Wales** coal-field is the largest in Wales; the smaller ones being those of **Denbigh, Flint,** and **Anglesea.**

9. The coal we dig from the mine did not come there by chance, and has had a wonderful history. Long ago, when the country was covered with forests, the formation of coal had begun. The trees, ferns, mosses, and plants fell down and died, other trees and plants growing up to take their place. And so the process went on, until, the land sinking, these layers of decayed vegetation were covered over with sand, gravel, mud, and rocks. And then, under great pressure, deep down in the earth, the vegetable matter went through those changes that made it into coal.

10. Wood was formerly used as fuel. When coal was first introduced, it met with very little favour on account of the black smoke it produced. We are told that, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the inhabitants of London were forbidden to use it during the sitting of Parliament.

11. But in time, wood gradually gave way to coal. As new fields were discovered, its use became more general; and people learned how much more heat could be procured from it for the working of metals, as well as for many other purposes for which they had hitherto used wood as fuel.

12. The use of chimneys followed the wider use of coal. Can you imagine London, a few hundred years ago, without chimneys and smoke?

13. In the ruins of some of our ancient castles you may see the wide, open fireplaces where the wood-fires burned on the hearth—giving warmth and light on dark nights, in the days when coal and gas were unknown.

14. In those days the blazing Yule-log lit up the halls at Christmas time—holly-boughs and mistletoe hung in plenty on the walls, and a boar's head formed the chief Christmas fare. How our coal has changed this scene! The wild boar no longer finds a home here, for the forests have almost disappeared. Our mighty oaks, round which the mistletoe grew so plentifully, have been largely used for building our ships; and the pretty creeper, which the Druids used to cut from the trees with a golden knife, is now very scarce indeed. Our Christmas fires of coal burn in grates and stoves made of iron, and have room only for a very small Yule-log, which we sometimes burn in memory of the olden times.

min'-er-al	sup-ply'-ing	ve-ge-ta'-tion	chim'-neys
pro-duc'-tions	in-ven'-tion	pres'-sure	mis'-tle-toe
quan'-ti-ties	won'-der-ful	for-bid'-den	plen'-ti-ful-ly
ap-plied'	de-cayed'	par'-lia-ment	mem'-o-ry

can'-nel coal (*candle-coal*), *a very hard coal that burns without smoke, like a candle.*
in-tro-duced', *brought into use.*
im-a'-gine, *think of.*
Yule, *the old name for Christmas-time.*
fare, *food.*
Dru'-ids, *priests among the ancient Britons.*

LESSON 29.

COAL-MINING.

YOU will wish to know something about the coal-mines, and the manner in which coal is obtained.

2. In order to discover where coal exists, 'borings' are made in the earth with iron implements. The coal lies in *layers* or *seams* varying in thickness from

three to eight feet. The seams lie one below the other, with beds of different kinds of stone, clay, or sand between them.

3. When the coal is discovered, the next step is to sink a shaft or pit ten or twelve feet in diameter, sometimes larger. The shaft is lined with brickwork or iron, to prevent the sides falling in.

4. Some little distance from the mouth of the shaft, a steam-engine is placed. This works strong chains and pulleys, to which is attached the cage or box in which the miners are lowered into the mine; and the coal which they dig out is sent up in it to the pit's mouth, or, as the colliers say, 'to the bank.'

5. Two shafts are always dug, in order that the mine may be better supplied with fresh air. In addition to these there are several air-pipes laid down, by which pure air can be admitted, and the foul air from the mine sent out.

6. But you will be getting impatient to know what there is to be seen in the mine itself.

7. Would you like to join the men about to descend? Down, down, you would go—perhaps wishing you had not ventured—leaving daylight behind; feeling much as if you had a horrid nightmare, and quietly resolving that your curiosity shall never again tempt you below the surface of the earth. The miners are so used to the journey down, that these thoughts and feelings do not occur to them as they would to you.

8. And what would you see when you reached the bottom of the shaft? Long dark passages to the right and to the left, with others leading out of them,

all formed by the miners. 'Have you dug out all these passages with your pickaxes?' you would ask them. Mostly so, they would tell you; but sometimes huge masses of coal are dislodged by *blasting*.

Coal-miners at work.

A hole is bored into the rock, and some gunpowder is put into it. A light is fastened to the end of a long iron rod, and with this the powder is fired, and a great block of coal torn away.

9. The passages are sometimes so low that the men have to sit or lie down to their work. Each miner carries a 'Davy' lamp to light him as he works.

10. By the light of these lamps, you would discover that little tramways are laid along the floors of the mine, along which the trucks full of coal are run to the bottom of the shaft to be put into the cages and taken to the top.

11. You would hear the trucks coming along the rails before you could see them, and would perhaps

think yourself mistaken in fancying you heard the tramp of hoofs. But after all it is not a mere fancy, for real, well-cared-for ponies dwell in the mines—some of them never having seen daylight. It is very hard to think of ponies never having seen green fields or sunshine, and makes us wish that some other means of drawing the coals could be found.

12. Miners are often in great danger of their lives. Sometimes there is an explosion of gas in the mine, caused by the gas, which issues from the coal, coming in contact with the lamps. Accidents of this kind are not so frequent since 'Davy' lamps were used.

13. Often, after an explosion, the mine becomes filled with choke-damp—a very foul air which suffocates the men. Sometimes the mines are flooded—great quantities of water bursting in upon them from the numerous springs which the excavations open up. Care must be taken to pump out this water as fast as it gathers. Sometimes it flows in so fast, that the poor miners are drowned before the water can be stopped.

14. There are over three thousand coal-mines in England and Wales. The coal dug out of these mines every year amounts to about one hundred and thirty millions of tons, and is worth about fifty-five million pounds.

15. Some of the mines are exceedingly deep—over a thousand feet—and worked to some extent under the sea.

pul'-leys	ad-mit'-ted	re-solv'-ing	ex-plo'-sion
at-tached'	im-pa'-tient	cu-ri-os'-i-ty	ac'-ci-dents
sup-plied'	de-scend'	jour'-ney	ex-ceed'-ing-ly

im'-ple-ments, *tools.*
di-am'-e-ter, *measurement across.*
dis-lodged', *moved out of place.*
'Davy' lamp, *a kind of lamp in which the light is covered round with wire gauze, so that no gas can touch the flame.*
in con'-tact, *close so as to touch.*
suf'-fo-cates, *chokes to death.*
ex-ca-va'-tions, *holes made by digging.*

LESSON 30.

IRON.

IRON is the most plentiful and useful of all our metals. All kinds of machinery, all sorts of tools, household utensils, implements of war, bridges, and sometimes churches and schools, are made of iron. In fact, when we look round and see how many of our most useful things are made of iron, we are almost led to wonder how our forefathers got on at all without it. They had no bolts, screws, nails, knives, nor had they any of the bright sharp-edged tools which make it easy to do so many kinds of work. How difficult *we* should find it to do without iron!

2. Iron is very generally found in the coal-fields, where it exists in layers or beds between seams of coal or beds of sand and clay. It is mined much in the same manner as coal.

3. But you would never think it was iron when it is first dug out from the mines. It looks simply like stone, and is called **ironstone**. If you take a piece in your hand, you will find, by its great weight, that it is not an ordinary piece of stone. Metals are seldom found in a pure state; they are mixed with other substances, and in this condition are called **ores**. The iron must be extracted from the ore before it can be used. How this is done, you will learn later on.

4. The largest bed of ironstone in the country lies in the district of **Cleveland**, in the north of Yorkshire. Beds of iron are also found in the coal-fields of Yorkshire, North and South Staffordshire, South Wales, and the Forest of Dean. The Furness district of the Lancashire coal-field has a large supply of iron-ore of a very fine quality. Iron-ore of a very valuable kind is also found in the mountain-region of Cumberland, where there are extensive mines.

5. The quantity of iron-ore dug up yearly in this country amounts to more than sixteen millions of tons, of which the rich Cleveland district alone yields more than a third.

6. The existence of iron was unknown to the ancient Britons, who made all their tools and weapons of stone. But some of our mines were worked in the days of the Romans. The iron-

works in the Forest of Dean were established by them.

7. Iron is not found in the coal-fields only. It is found in many parts of England where coal does not exist. In fact, it is so widely spread, that we can trace it in fruits, flowers, and other products of the soil, as well as in our own blood.

8. There are many springs in England whose waters contain a large quantity of iron. Such springs are used medicinally. From what you already know of the formation of springs, you will conclude that these springs must have forced their way through beds of ironstone, whence they have gathered the iron with which they are filled. A vessel used in drinking from these springs for any length of time becomes coated with iron, and presents the appearance of being 'rusty.'

plen'-ti-ful	sub'-stan-ces	yields	for-ma'-tion
ma-chin'-er-y	con-di'-tion	ex-ist'-ence	con-clude'
or'-din-ar-y	re'-gion	e-stab'-lished	ap-pear'-ance

house'-hold u-ten'-sils, *articles for household use.*
im'-ple-ments of war, *arms used for fighting.*
ex-tract'-ed, *drawn out, or separated.*
me-dic'-in-al-ly, *as medicine.*
coat'-ed, *covered over.*

LESSON 31.

IRON-SMELTING.

THE process by which the iron is extracted from the ore is called **smelting**. As this is done by the aid of fire, the smelting is mostly carried on in the neighbourhood of coal-fields.

2. Those of you who live in the country, among green lanes, trees, and waving corn-fields, can form little idea of the blackness of a colliery and iron-smelting district. Seeing such a district for the first time by night, you would almost take it to be the scene of some fearful fire. Dense smoke from tall chimneys—glaring flames, from what *appear* to be huge chimneys, lighting up the sky in the darkness of night—give to the whole scene a most weird and dreadful look.

3. But those huge-looking chimneys with flames issuing from their tops are the **smelting-furnaces.** Their great fires are kept burning night and day, being allowed to go down only when the furnaces need repairs. It takes several weeks to refill the furnaces and restore them to their proper heat. Many of them are from sixty to a hundred feet high. The men who work the furnaces are exposed to great heat and smoke. They wear scarcely any clothing, and look almost as black as negroes. Their occupation is not very healthy, but they earn a great deal of money.

4. Some of you have seen the men at work on the top of the furnaces, constantly feeding them? Yet the hungry flames seem to cry out for more. And what are they pouring into them? Pieces of iron-ore, coke, and limestone, all of which are conveyed to the top in the trucks which you see on the sloping tramway. The limestone aids the coke in smelting the ore. The great heat melts the iron, and its great weight causes it to sink to the bottom of the furnace, which is called the

'hearth,' the dross and cinders floating on the top of the melted iron. The furnace is 'tapped' about every twelve hours. The liquid iron then flows out into furrows or channels of dry sand, which are made on the ground, and there left to cool. It is thus formed into bars of iron, which are called 'pigs.' In this form it is conveyed to the various manufacturers, who convert it into the numerous articles of household use and machinery that are made of iron.

5. Iron-smelting was formerly carried on in the woody districts of England—being very general in the forests of Surrey, Sussex, and Kent. But as wood grew scarce and coal-mining more extensive, the works were gradually removed to the coal-fields, and the counties above named became covered with smiling fields of corn and hop gardens.

6. We shall have occasion to notice iron in another form when we come to speak of our manufactures. In the meantime, if you will consider how many things are made from it, and how many of the huge machines of iron are dependent upon coal for the work they perform, you will see that our coal and iron are the two greatest sources of our prosperity as a nation. If we were to lose our coal and iron, England would become a poor country, and fall from its high place among the nations of the world.

pro'-cess	chim'-neys	con'-stant-ly	num'-er-ous
ex-tract'-ed	dread'-ful	li'-quid	ma-chin'-er-y
neigh'-bour-hood	re-pairs'	chan'-nels	oc-ca'-sion
coll'-ier-y	oc-cu-pa'-tion	man-u-fac'-tur-er	de-pend'-ent

weird, *unearthly.*
is'-su-ing, *streaming out.*
coke, *a kind of coal.*
con-veyed', *carried.*
con-vert', *make or change.*
pros-per'-i-ty, *welldoing.*

LESSON 32.

TIN, COPPER, LEAD.

TIN is found only in Cornwall and Devonshire. The tin-mines of Cornwall are the oldest in the country, having been worked for more than two thousand years. Long ago, when these mines were first worked, the Romans used to call the British Isles the **Tin Isles**, and they often sailed to the Scilly Isles and the coast of Cornwall, to purchase large quantities of tin, which they mixed with copper to form the brass of which their coats of mail and helmets were made. There are altogether about ninety tin-mines in these two counties; and they produce in a year about fourteen thousand tons of pure tin, which is worth more than half a million of money. The well-known Botallack mine near Land's End is more than a thousand feet deep. It is entered on the very verge of the cliffs at a height of 400 feet above the sea, and its workings are dug out a long way under the bed of the ocean. The miners, as they labour, often hear the roar of the sea thundering upon the roof of the mine.

2. The tin-ore is sent up from the mines in blocks which have been dislodged by gunpowder. It is then crushed and placed in a furnace with lime and charcoal. The pure tin melts, and the dross is skimmed off its surface. This process is called *refining*.

3. **Copper** is found in the same parts of the country as tin—often in the same mines. Besides Devon and

Cornwall, Lancashire and North and South Wales produce a good deal; and smaller quantities are found in Staffordshire. The ore is obtained by mining, and afterwards smelted. Now that so much copper comes to us from Australia and South America, many of the old copper-mines are considered to be not worth working. Most of the copper brought from abroad or mined in England is smelted at Swansea in South Wales.

Botallack Mine.

4. **Lead** is found in many parts of our country. Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Northumberland, Cumberland, Cornwall, Devonshire, and Wales, all produce lead-ore. Derbyshire abounds in lead-mines. Lead is one of our most useful metals. It is used for making pipes for water and gas; rolled into sheets for putting on the roofs of houses; and made into shot and bullets.

Small quantities of silver are found mixed with lead-ore. **Zinc** is also found in the copper and lead mines.

5. **Black-lead** (which is really not lead at all, but *plumbago*), is found only in one mine in England—the Borrowdale mine in Cumberland. The finer kind is used for pencils; the coarser kind, for polishing grates, and also—as it can stand very great heat—for making melting-pots for the melting of metals.

6. The Borrowdale Mine is interesting as being the only one of its kind in the land. It is situated in the side of a steep hill—the mineral being found in hollows of the mountain. It is sometimes found in lumps weighing as much as fifty pounds—sometimes in small pieces only. Some years ago the supply of this mine was thought to be failing, and for a time it was closed. But it is now being worked again. As the men come out from the mine, they pass through a room for examination, lest any should have been tempted to carry away a small piece of the precious store of the mine.

thun'-der-ing	skimmed	zinc	pol'-ish-ing
dis-lodged'	re-fin'-ing	plum-ba'-go	ex-am-in-a'-tion
fur'-nace	quan'-ti-ties	coars'-er	pre'-cious

pur'-chase, *buy.* | verge, *edge.*

char'-coal, *burnt wood.*

LESSON 33.

SALT, SLATE, STONE, CLAY.

SALT is found chiefly at Northwich, in Cheshire. It lies in beds like coal, but the seams are sometimes from sixty to a hundred feet thick. The salt is worked in mines like coal, except when it is obtained from salt-springs by the process called evaporation, in which the water is carried off in steam, leaving only the salt.

2. The produce of the Cheshire mines is so great that the river Weaver, which runs through the middle of the county, conveys barges which carry more than a million tons of salt every year. **Salt-springs** are worked at Droitwich in Worcestershire.

3. Near Northwich is the celebrated Marston mine, at a depth of 400 feet below the surface. This mine covers an area of 30 acres. Its roof is supported by high pillars of salt, of great width. Thus there are numerous rooms with floors, walls, roofs, and pillars of sparkling white crystal-salt. The mine is occasionally lighted up with thousands of bright lamps, which make the floors and roofs sparkle like diamonds.

4. **Slate** is quarried chiefly in North Wales, Cumberland, and Cornwall. The Penrhyn slate-quarries in North Wales are the most famous. They produce the finest slates, and give work to more than two thousand men. You would be much pleased with

a visit to one of the slate-quarries. At certain ti during the day you would hear a bugle sounding, see the men hurrying into the little huts built h and there round the quarry. Presently you wo

Penrhyn Slate-Quarries.

hear a loud noise like thunder. This is caused *blasting* the rocks, that is, splitting them by me of gunpowder or dynamite. Sometimes pieces slate are driven to a great distance by the forc

the powder, and this is why the bugle sounds to warn the men to take shelter.

5. **Building-stone** is found in many parts of England. Freestone—which is the best kind of building-stone—is found near Bath in Somersetshire, and also in Yorkshire, Wiltshire, and other counties. Portland stone is also much used for building purposes. St Paul's cathedral and many other public buildings are built of Portland stone. The famous breakwater off the Isle of Portland is composed of huge stones quarried in the neighbourhood. It extends for about two and a half miles into the sea, and was built by convicts.

6. Some of the stone found in Derbyshire is full of small fossils of shells, insects, and leaves; and as it is capable of taking a high polish, it is converted into the beautiful Derbyshire marble which is used for mantelpieces and other works of an ornamental kind.

7. Very fine granite is quarried in Devon and Cornwall. **Clay**, for making bricks, tiles, and drain-pipes, is found in many parts of the country—more especially in the counties of Middlesex, Essex, and Kent. Potter's clay, used in making earthenware, is found abundantly in North Staffordshire, and the finer kinds, known as **china clay**, in Worcester and Derby.

8. The last few lessons will have shown you how rich our country is in natural productions of the most useful kind—all of which find work for her people, give comfort at home, and the means of trade with nations abroad.

chief'-ly	oc-ca'-sion-al-ly	neigh'-bour-hood	or-na-men'-tal
pil'-lars	quar'-ried	in'-sects	earth'-en-ware
crys'-tal	ca-the'-dral	con-vert'-ed	pro-duc'-tions

e-vap-or-a'-tion, *drawing off water in the form of steam.*

dyn'-a-mite, *a powerful explosive substance used in blasting.*

break'-wa-ter, *a bar placed in front of a harbour to break the force of the sea.*

con'-victs, *men who had been sentenced to lose their liberty for some crime that they had done.*

fos'-sils, *remains of animals or vegetables which have been petrified, or changed into stone.*

LESSON 34.

FARMING.

IN addition to its great mineral wealth, England has a rich fertile soil, which is capable of the highest cultivation.

2. Up to within a hundred years ago, the cultivation of the soil formed the chief occupation of the labouring population. But the rapid growth of our manufactures since that time, has changed the character of our national industry. Indeed, at the present time, England does not grow sufficient food for its population, and the resources of other countries

must be drawn upon before the English nation can be fed.

3. About two-thirds of the surface of England, and half that of Wales, are still under cultivation—yielding corn, vegetables, and fruits for man; and grass and fodder for cattle.

4. **Corn**, in the form of wheat, barley, oats, and rye, is grown chiefly in the eastern and south-eastern counties. These counties are well adapted for corn-growing—they are much drier than the western, and, as they are on the whole very flat, are easily ploughed. A great deal of corn is also grown in Hampshire, Wiltshire, and Gloucestershire; while Kent is the famous hop-growing county. In the hop-picking season, many of the poor of London find employment in Kent. Sellers of flowers and cresses, and many other things familiar in London streets, are missed from their usual places early in the month of September, because they have gone 'a-hopping.'

5. The western counties—where more rain falls—produce grass in abundance. **Dairy-farms** abound in these counties, yielding large quantities of butter and cheese. Dorset and Devon have the highest reputation for butter; while Cheshire, Wiltshire, and Gloucestershire are famous for their cheese. Cambridge, amongst the eastern counties, is famous also for its butter, which is there sold by the *yard*—a pound in weight being rolled out to a yard in length!

6. The rearing of sheep and cattle forms a very important feature of English farming. Farms which are used almost entirely for cattle-rearing are called

stock-farms. Those of Lincoln, Leicester, Northampton, Hereford, and Somerset are the most famous. It is calculated that there are about twenty-five millions of sheep in England and Wales. Those fed on the Welsh mountains and the Downs produce the finest mutton, while Leicester sheep are valued for their long, fine, soft wool.

7. Englishmen are proud of their horses, and great care is bestowed upon the rearing of them. High-bred race-horses—proud and prancing carriage-horses, all sleek and trim—sturdy, steady toilers who know the ploughboy's whistle—fine broad-chested animals which are used for traffic—and plump little ponies for ladies and children, are all to be found amongst those reared in our own country.

8. Much attention is given to the growth of vegetables and fruits. Large market-gardens and extensive orchards supply our towns with potatoes, peas, cauliflowers; apples, pears, plums, cherries, and many other vegetables and fruits with which you are familiar. Hereford and Devonshire are famous for apple-orchards, their produce being used chiefly in making cider, a drink made from apples.

cap'-a-ble	yield'-ing	fea'-ture	at-ten'-tion
cul-ti-va'-tion	ve'-ge-ta-bles	be-stowed'	orch'-ards
oc-cu-pa'-tion	em-ploy'-ment	pranc'-ing	po-ta'-toes
la'-bour-ing	a-bun'-dance	car'-riage	cau'-li-flow-ers
char'-ac-ter	im-port'-ant	traf'-fic	fa-mil'-iar

fer'-tile, *productive.*
na'-tion-al in'-dus-try, *the employment largely engaged in by the people.*
suf-fi'-cient, *enough.*
fod'-der, *hay, straw, and other kinds of winter food for cattle.*
ad-apt'-ed, *suited.*
rep-u-ta'-tion, *fame.*
cal'-cu-lat-ed, *counted.*

LESSON 35.

THE MANUFACTURES OF ENGLAND.

IN the amount, variety, and value of her *manufactures*, England surpasses every other country in the world.

2. This was not always the case, as you have learned from the preceding lesson. It is during the course of the last hundred years that England has risen to such importance as a manufacturing country.

3. Before that time, her manufactures were very few and inferior. But at length communication with other countries was opened up, and their superior skill observed and imitated by the English. Then, towards the close of the sixteenth century, troubles on the Continent drove many French and Flemish artisans from their native countries to seek refuge in England. Finding a home here, they settled, and followed their occupations of silk and woollen weaving, thus giving England the benefit of their superior skill.

4. At the same time, some of our own countrymen invented machines for perfecting the various manufactures. Chief amongst them were Richard Arkwright, Samuel Crompton, James Hargreaves, William Lee, and James Watt who invented the steam-engine which set the machines in motion. All boys should read the story of their steady toil, and brave perseverance under difficulties.

5. You will not fail to remember that our country possesses abundant material for the making and

working of machinery in her vast wealth of iron an coal, so that really these two natural production combined with the cleverness of her people, hav been the causes that made England the first manu facturing country in the world.

6. Most of our great manufactures are carried c in the neighbourhood of the coal-fields; and it is i these busy centres that we find our large and densel populated towns. You will readily see *why* tl manufactures should be carried on in these district Such vast quantities of coal are used for workir the machinery, that the carriage of it to a gre distance would be both expensive and inconvenier For instance, suppose cotton goods were manufacture in London, and coals for the purpose had to l brought from Newcastle—what would be the result The carriage of the coal would cost so much that tl goods manufactured must be sold for a greater pri than they are at present.

7. When we look round our homes, and see tl numerous articles of household use and person comfort which are produced by our manufacture we can scarcely help wondering what our forefathe did without them in the days when English manu factures were so few.

8. The fact is, they were much more simple ar frugal in their mode of living than we are in tl present day. They were contented with coar clothing, which they spun at home, and with ver plain food. Carpets, and many other articles c comfort and ornament which adorn our homes, we: then far beyond the reach of ordinary household

The rapid growth of our manufactures has given English people more money to spend, and more luxuries to be had for it, than their ancestors ever dreamt of.

sur-pas'-ses	im'-i-ta-ted	ma-chines'	cen'-tres
pre-ced'-ing	wool'-len	per-se-ver'-ance	or'-din-ar-y
im-port'-ance	ben'-e-fit	dif'-fi-cul-ties	lux'-u-ries
com-mun-i-ca'-tion	in-vent'-ed	pos-ses'-ses	an'-ces-tors

in-fe'-ri-or, *not so good.*
cen'-tu-ry, *period of a hundred years.*
ar'-ti-san, *a skilled workman.*
su-pe'-ri-or, *much better.*
in-con-ven'-ient, *troublesome.*

LESSON 36.

COTTON.

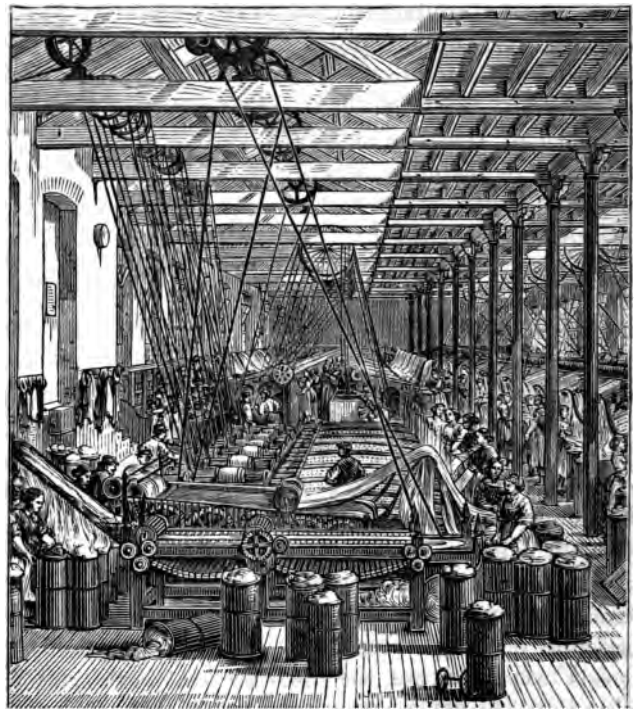
THE most important manufacture in England is that of **Cotton**. We cannot grow cotton here, for our climate is not warm enough. Our supplies of the raw material come to us from the Southern States of North America, from India, from Brazil, and from Egypt.

2. When gathered, the cotton is packed in 'bales' and shipped to our cotton port, **Liverpool**, where you may see huge vessels laden entirely with it.

3. From Liverpool, the bales are sent to the cotton districts of South Lancashire and North Cheshire. **Manchester** is the chief town of the cotton-spinning industry. Other towns are Blackburn, Oldham, Ashton, Preston, Bolton, Bury, Wigan, Stockport, and many others which you will see in the map of England, all lying near one another in what is called the cotton district. All these towns are

large, and densely populated with an industrious and thrifty people.

4. Passing through any of these towns, large



The Interior of a Spinning-mill.

cotton factories (which are called 'mills') would meet your eye at every turn—some of them many stories high. Each story has its appointed work in the various processes of *cleaning, carding, drawing, spinning,* through which the raw cotton must

pass before it can be woven into calico, muslin, and many other materials that are made of cotton. A pound of the best cotton, passed through all these processes of manufacture, will make a thousand miles of yarn. We import into our country a very large quantity of cotton every year; the value of it being more than forty millions of money. A large quantity of this is sent out of our country again in the form of manufactured goods, to all parts of the world.

5. At present the bales are conveyed from Liverpool chiefly by rail; but it is proposed to make a **ship-canal** between Liverpool and Manchester, so that the large ships laden with cotton may pass right on to this busy centre at a cheaper rate. Should this scheme succeed, we shall regard Manchester as one of our country's curiosities in the form of an *inland port*.

6. The rapid growth of the cotton manufacture in England has been simply marvellous. The inventions of Hargreaves, Watt, Arkwright, and others, so reduced the cost of manufacture, as to lead to the more extensive use of cotton goods at home on account of their cheapness. The quantity of cotton goods exported has also greatly increased, and at times it has not been easy to obtain sufficient raw material for our English manufactures. Our largest supply comes from America, which is reputed to send us over two million bales a year.

7. Whilst iron is the most useful of metals, cotton is the most useful of fabrics; for so many articles of clothing, household use, and ornament are manu-

factured from it. Calico, muslin, prints, stocking laces, curtains, materials for covering furnitur and cotton-thread for sewing, are made of cotto Before its introduction, the poorer classes of peopl in England were clothed chiefly in coarse woolle clothing; the richer classes using linen for unde clothing.

cli'-mate	in'-dus-try	con-veyed'	fur'-ni-ture
sup-plies'	ap-point'-ed	suc-ceed'	in-tro-duc'-tion
ma-te'-ri-al	pro'-cess-es	suf-fi'-cient	coarse
cot'-ton-spin'-ning	cal'-i-co	fab'-rics	un'-der-cloth-in

raw ma-te'-ri-al, *any substance in its natural state, as cotton, flax, &c., before it is manufactured.*

in-dus'-tri-ous, *hard-working.*
scheme, *plan.*
mar'-vel-lous, *wonderful.*

LESSON 37.

WOOL.

WOOL is the oldest o our manufacture In the olden times, o which we have alread spoken, a great deal o wool was produced i England, and it was manu factured in almost ever home. Large factorie with their endless whi of machinery, were never thought of then. Ever home had its spinning-wheel, on which the female of the family spun the wool for their own house

hold, and then passed it on to some handloom weaver to be woven into cloth and other woollen materials.

2. The invention of machinery has set aside the spinning-wheel and handloom, and also fixed the manufacture in one great centre on the Yorkshire coal-field. **Leeds** and **Bradford** are the two chief towns engaged in the woollen trade. The cloth-market of Leeds is by far the largest in the world. **Halifax, Huddersfield,** and **Wakefield** are other large towns which owe their prosperity to the woollen industry. Woollen cloths and worsted goods (such as serges and coburgs) are manufactured in these towns. The finest cloth, called West of England cloth, is made at Frome and Trowbridge in Wiltshire, and also at Stroud in Gloucestershire.

3. **Carpets** form an important branch of the woollen trade. It is very strange how often the carpet trade has left one town where it was long settled, and fixed itself in another, without losing its former name. Thus 'Kidderminster' carpets are not now made at Kidderminster, but at Kilmarnock in Scotland; while 'Axminster' carpets are made at Dewsbury in Yorkshire. 'Brussels' carpets are chiefly made at Wilton, near Salisbury, and Kidderminster in Worcestershire.

4. **Flannels** are made at Rochdale, and also in some of the towns of North Wales, chiefly at Newtown and Welshpool, in Montgomeryshire.

5. **Blankets** are made at Witney in Oxfordshire, and at Dewsbury in Yorkshire.

6. The towns of Batley and Dewsbury, in York-

shire, are celebrated for the manufacture of **shoddy**. Shoddy is a poor, cheap kind of cloth, which is made out of old woollen rags! Tons of old rags are annually collected and sold to the shoddy-mills. Apart from those gathered in our own country, some thousands of tons are imported from abroad. The rags are torn to pieces by machinery until they look like fibres of wool. They are then mixed with a little new wool, re-dyed, re-spun, and re-woven into new cloth, which, in many instances, forms some one's 'new suit' long after its first owner has worn it threadbare! But this re-manufacture of old woollen rags prevents great waste, as they could not be used for any other purpose.

7. **Alpaca** and **mohair** are manufactured from the wools of the alpaca and Angora goat, and the fine long wool of the llama. Up to the year 1836 it was thought impossible to bring these wools to a state capable of being spun and woven. But by the perseverance of one man (the late Sir Titus Salt) means for manufacturing them were at last discovered, and this industry has added much wealth to our country. Sir Titus built the model town of Saltaire near Bradford.

8. Large quantities of wool are spun into various kinds of yarn for knitting purposes, and for the manufacture, by machinery, of **woollen hosiery**, which forms a very important branch of trade carried on chiefly at Leicester.

9. Our own country produces only about one-third of the wool required for manufacture. The other two-thirds come to us chiefly from South Africa, Australia

New Zealand, and India. Sheep are reared very largely in these countries for the value of their wool alone.

man-u-fac'-tures	in-ven'-tion	cel'-e-brat-ed	im-pos'-si-ble
pro-duced'	worst'-ed	shod'-dy	cap'-a-ble
ma-chin'-er-y	ser'-ges	col-lect'-ed	dis-cov'-ered
ma-te'-ri-als	co'-burgs	thread'-bare	quan'-ti-ties

hand'-loom, *a loom worked by hand.*
pros-per'-i-ty, *success or welldoing.*
ann'-u-al-ly, *every year.*
per-se-ver'-ance, *constant trying to master a thing.*

LESSON 38.

HARDWARE.

THE next great industry we have to consider is the manufacture of **iron** and **hardware**. With the process of iron-smelting, and the districts in which it is carried on, you have already become acquainted in Lessons 30 and 31. The term *hardware* includes all goods made of iron, steel, copper, or any of the other metals.

2. **Birmingham** is celebrated for the variety of its hardware manufactures. Engines, bridges, machinery, guns, locks, bolts, screws, nails, garden tools, household utensils, buttons, pins, and last, but not least useful, steel pens, are all made in Birmingham. Fifty years ago a steel pen cost a shilling; now we can buy a *gross* of good pens for that sum.

3. You are sure to ask how they managed to get on in schools in the days when pens were so dear. Quill pens were used, and much time was often lost in sharpening them. Very few schoolboys possessed

a *pen*knife of their own in those days, and the pen had to be pointed for them at school. Fifty years ago, hardly the half of the people of our country could write, for they had not the chance of learning when they were young.

4. Wolverhampton, Dudley, West Bromwich, and all the towns in the Black Country, are also engaged in the hardware manufacture, but Birmingham is the great mart for trade in the district.

5. **Sheffield** is the next great centre of the hard ware industry, and is specially noted for the manufacture of **steel**, cutlery, and plated goods.

6. Passing this large town by rail, you would think it about as black as a town could possibly be and would never think that it had such beautiful surroundings. Not far from the station, and close to the line of rail, you would see a large number of **puddling furnaces**, which by night appear almost too dreadful, in their red-hot heat, for any one to approach. Yet you would see the puddler standing in front of the oven-like furnaces, stirring a mass of red-hot iron, so as to expose every part of it to the flames for the purpose of refining it. The 'wrought iron' is converted into **steel** by being placed in ovens with charcoal, and kept red-hot for several days.

7. Knives, scissors, swords, scythes, edge-tools, and many other steel goods, form the leading features of the Sheffield hardware manufactures. Steel-wire drawing forms another important branch of trade-some wires being made as fine as hair, and some thick enough for the cable which is stretched under

the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, to convey telegrams from or to England and America.

8. One of the most interesting branches of the Sheffield trade is the rolling of the **armour-plate** with which our ships of war are in great part covered. The huge masses of red-hot iron are rolled out into immense sheets of an inch or more in thickness.

9. **Electro-plating** is another of Sheffield's chief industries. By this process articles of inferior metal are covered with a coating of silver, and afterwards polished to such perfection as to look like articles of solid silver.

10. **Agricultural machinery** is made chiefly at Bedford, Ipswich, and Leeds. Redditch, in Worcestershire, is famous for the manufacture of needles and fish-hooks.

in'-dus-try	pos-sessed'	wrought	tel'-e-grams
ac-quaint'-ed	sur-round'-ings	char'-coal	ar'-mour
cel'-e-brat-ed	ap-proach'	scis'-sors	pol'-ished
sharp'-en-ing	re-fin'-ing	scythes	nee'-dles

house'-hold u-ten'-sils, *articles for household use.*
gross, *twelve dozen.*
cut'-ler-y, *edged tools.*
con-vert'-ed, *changed.*
con-vey', *carry.*

LESSON 39.

LINEN, SILK, LEATHER, EARTHENWARE.

THE only part of England in which flax is grown is a district in the eastern part of Yorkshire. Leeds is the chief seat of the flax and **linen** trade in England, and, indeed, it has some of the finest flax-mills in the world. Flax-spinning is carried on in Wiltshire, and also in Dorsetshire.

2. The manufacture of **silk** is not such an important one as it was formerly. French silks are superior to those of English manufacture, and since they can be obtained quite as cheaply, this branch of industry has, to a great extent, decreased. Our climate is much too cold for the rearing of the silkworm, therefore all the silk manufactured in this country is imported from warmer ones. The southern countries of Europe, China, India, and Japan, send us our supplies.

3. Silk is still spun and woven in many parts of England. Macclesfield and Congleton in Cheshire; Derby; Nottingham; Coventry, in Warwickshire; Spitalfields, in the east of London; and Leek, in Staffordshire, all have a share in this industry. Coventry is famous for its manufacture of ribbons.

4. **Leather** is manufactured in various districts, but the great centres of the trade are Bermondsey, in the south-east of London; Stafford; and Northampton—the last two towns being famous for the manufacture of *boots* and *shoes*. All kinds of four-footed animals contribute to this manufacture, for the skins of oxen, horses, sheep, goats, pigs, cats, and dogs, are all tanned into leather. England does not produce nearly enough 'hides' for her own use and manufacture; therefore large quantities are imported. Those obtained from the butchers are called 'green' hides, and those imported from abroad 'dry,' 'salted,' or 'smoked.' Very often large packages of hides are found to be useless on their arrival from abroad, owing to the ravages made upon them by little grubs which sometimes infest them.

5. The **earthenware** manufacture is a very important one, giving employment to over 200,000 people.

6. The district known as 'The Potteries' is on the North Staffordshire coal-field—the chief towns being Burslem, Hanley, Stoke, and Longton.

7. Less than a century ago our earthenware manufactures were of a somewhat rude description compared with those of the present day. England was then supplied with common ware from Delft in Holland, and with the finer kinds from China. Staffordshire then produced only very coarse ware, which was hawked about the country by the workmen themselves, or by the common pedlars. The great improvements made are due mainly to Josiah Wedgewood, a poor boy who rose to be a rich manufacturer through his own industry and perseverance.

8. The clay for this manufacture is obtained partly from the Potteries district, but chiefly from Cornwall, Devon, and Dorset. It is exceedingly interesting to watch the various processes by which the rude clay is fashioned into the many articles which come under the head of 'earthenware.' The clay is first ground down with sand, flint, glass, stone, and burnt bones, in order to render it capable of manufacture. It is then dried for some time, after which it is handed to the 'thrower,' who shapes it on his lathe into the articles required. Handles are then attached to cups, teapots, &c., and the ware is then baked hard in a kiln. When taken from the kiln, they are dipped in glaze, and again baked to fix the glaze. Printers, painters, gilders, and burnishers are employed in

decorating the ware, crate-makers in making packages for it from rods plaited together, and packers in filling them for conveyance to various parts of our own country and abroad.

ob-tained'	ar-riv'-al	cen'-tu-ry	ex-ceed'-ing-ly
rib'-bons	rav'-a-ges	coarse	fash'-ioned
quan'-ti-ties	em-ploy'-ment	im-prove'-ments	at-tached'
pack'-a-ges	pot'-ter-ies	per-se-ver'-ance	kiln

su-pe'-ri-or, *better.*
de-creased', *become smaller.*
con-trib'-ute, *give something.*
earth'-en-ware, *articles made of a certain kind of earth; crockery.*
de-scrip'-tion, *kind.*
hawked, *carried about for sale.*
ped'-lars, *persons who sell their goods from door to door.*
bur'-nish-ers, *persons who make things bright.*
dec'-o-rat-ing, *making beautiful.*
con-vey'-ance, *carrying.*

LESSON 40.

OTHER MANUFACTURES.

ENGLAND has many other manufactures besides those already named, but we can only take a passing notice of them in this small book.

2. The **shipbuilding** work of the country is a vast industry, as might be expected when the great amount of England's trade with countries 'over the sea' is considered. Shipbuilding is carried on near the mouths of our chief rivers—the Tyne, the Wear, the Thames, and the Mersey possessing the largest shipbuilding yards.

3. **Paper-making** is carried on chiefly in Kent, though there are paper-mills in various other places. Paper is made from old linen and cotton rags. Large quantities are imported for this purpose—our own country not producing sufficient.

4. **Glass** is made in many parts of the country, Newcastle, Sunderland, Gateshead, St Helen's, and Birmingham being some of the principal towns.

5. **Watch-making** and **clock-making** are confined

A Shipbuilding Yard on the Tyne.

to three districts—Clerkenwell, a suburb of London; Coventry, in Warwickshire; and Prescot, near Liverpool. There are whole streets in Clerkenwell whose occupation is limited to the making of

watch hands; other streets, to the mainsprings; others, to enamelling; others, to lettering, and so on. Coventry makes clocks and gold watches chiefly; and Prescot makes what are known as 'Liverpool watches.'

6. **Lace** is made by machinery at Nottingham, as is also **hosiery.** Before the reign of Queen Elizabeth, stockings were all knitted by hand. During her reign, William Lee invented a knitting machine. The queen, hearing of it, went to his lodgings in Bunhill Row, London, to inspect the machine. She was pleased with the invention, but disappointed to find that it made such coarse stockings. At her suggestion Lee made some improvements in his machine, and wove a pair of silk stockings upon it, which the queen was pleased to accept. The first cotton stockings were made in the year 1730.

7. **Lucifer matches** are made chiefly in London. Nearly three hundred millions of matches are made in one day.

8. **Tobacco** is manufactured in London, Liverpool, and Bristol, the leaves being imported from America.

9. **Beer** is brewed in many of our towns, especially at Burton-on-Trent, the largest brewing town in Great Britain, perhaps in the world. **Porter** is brewed in London, in breweries of gigantic size, where a great many people are employed.

10. **Biscuit-making** is carried on to a very large extent in London, Reading, and Carlisle.

11. **Sugar-refining** is carried on chiefly at Bristol, Plymouth, Hull, and London, these being the ports where the raw sugar is chiefly landed.

12. **Straw-plaiting** and straw hat and bonnet making give employment to the people of Luton and Dunstable. Most of the plaiting is done in their homes, even children of four or five years old learning to plait.

13. **Soap** is a rather important manufacture. England makes about 140 millions of pounds weight of soap a year. Widnes is the chief centre of the soap manufacture, but fine kinds of soap are made largely in London.

14. **Soda,** which is used largely in the manufacture of soap, is made chiefly at Widnes and Gateshead.

15. **Toys** and **jewellery** are made both in London and Birmingham.

ex-pect'-ed	suf-fi'-cient	lim'-it-ed	sug-ges'-tion
con-sid'-ered	prin'-ci-pal	knit'-ting	ac-cept'
pos-ses'-sing	oc-cu-pa'-tion	dis-ap-point'-ed	jew'-el-ler-y

en-am'-el-ling, *covering over with a smooth, hard substance.*

sub'-urb, *place outside the city.*

hos'-i-er-y, *stockings and socks.*

LESSON 41.

THE COMMERCE OF ENGLAND.

YOU have been told already that England does not grow sufficient food for her people; also, that her produce of wool falls far short of what is required for manufacture and clothing; whilst cotton, which forms the *chief* article of her manufacture, cannot be grown here at all. You will see, therefore, why we must send to other countries for food and various materials for manufacture. On the other hand, we have more coal, iron, and other metals

than we require; so we can sell our coal, and hard ware, and manufactured goods, to other nations, an with the money buy from them what we need c the products of their countries.

2. The people who buy our coal, and hardware, an manufactured goods, send us in return corn and win tea and coffee, sugar and rice, raw cotton, and othe materials for manufacture, and many other things.

3. This exchange of money and goods, or, in othe words, this trade between nations far apart, is calle *commerce.* In the days when England had ver little or no commerce, her people had to live an dress upon such resources as the country had withi itself. How things have changed through this open ing up of trade with other nations!

4. England is now the chief commercial country o the world, for she trades with almost every peopl and nation on the earth. Our bright-coloured cotto goods, our knives, guns, and tools, are things o admiration and wonder to many almost savage tribe who have no money, but who will willingly par with some of the things they have in order to obtai them. Our machinery is in request in man countries. India has a few large cotton-mill fitted up entirely with English machinery. Ou hardware and earthenware goods travel almost al the world over.

5. The things which we send *out* from our countr to others are called *exports;* those which are brough *in* to our country from others are called *imports.*

6. The six chief articles of export from this country in the order of their amount and value, are: *Cotto*

goods, articles of *iron* and *steel*, *woollen goods*, *coals*, *machinery*, and *linen goods*.

7. The six chief articles of import are, in the order of their amount and value: *Corn*, *raw cotton*, *wool*, *raw sugar*, *timber*, and *tea*.

8. The value of things *imported* into our island every year amounts to nearly four hundred millions of pounds. The value of the *exports* is about three hundred millions of pounds. While the value of our imports is *increasing* every year, the exports show a tendency towards *decrease*. This is probably due to the fact that other nations have imitated us, and now manufacture much of their own raw material instead of sending it to us.

re-quired	re-sourc'-es	wil'-ling-ly	in-creas'-ing
ex-change'	col'-oured	en-tire'-ly	tend'-en-cy
com'-merce	ad-mir-a'-tion	a-mount'	prob'-a-bly

suf-fi'-cient, *enough*.
pro'-ducts, *things produced*.
com-mer'-ci-al, *trading*.
in re-quest', *much wanted*.

Details as to Exports and Imports will be found in the Revision Lessons, page 172.

LESSON 42.

SHIPPING AND PORTS.

TO carry away our exports, and bring back the imports we need, a very large number of ships and sailors are employed. We have nearly 20,000 trading-ships, about 5000 of which are steamers. Their tonnage—that is, the number of tons of goods they can carry—amounts to more than seven millions. To work these vessels, about 200,000 men are required.

2. Our ships are to be seen in every sea and every ocean; and they visit almost every port on the globe.

There is hardly a town of any size in the world where English merchants have not set up warehouses and factories. At all times of the day and night, there are on all the great oceans thousands of ships with their bows turned towards our shores, bringing the food or other articles which we require.

3. In addition to the numerous ships engaged in the export and import trade, we have several thousands of smaller ships and barges engaged in coasting-trade —about 1200 being employed in carrying coal alone.

4. We have a very long sea-coast, and many fine ports for receiving or sending out our merchandise.

5. **London**, on the Thames, is the largest of our ports. Its trade is chiefly with India, China, and those countries of the world which lie to the east of England. London imports more than she exports, which is not the case with those of our ports which are nearest the great centres of our manufactures.

6. Liverpool is our next largest port, and exports ***more*** than London, though not in such *variety*. It is

the port where the raw cotton lands from America, and from which most of our manufactured cotton goods are sent out. Its trade is chiefly with America,

Ireland, and Africa. It is also the starting and landing place for passengers to and from America.

7. **Bristol**, on the Avon, like Liverpool, trades chiefly with Ireland and America. Large quantities of tobacco and sugar come into this port, and a great number of its inhabitants are engaged in the manufacture of tobacco and sugar-refining.

8. **Hull**, on the Humber, is one of the most important of our northern ports, trading chiefly with the northern countries of Europe. The fine estuary of the Humber presents a busy scene at the port of Hull.

9. **Newcastle** and **Sunderland** do a large coal-shipping trade, and also trade with the northern countries of the Continent.

10. Our two eastern ports are **Grimsby**, whose trade is chiefly with the countries round the **Baltic**, and **Yarmouth**, so famous for its herring-fishery. **Dover** and **Harwich**, on the south-east coast, are the two packet-stations for the Continent.

11. **Southampton** and **Plymouth** on the south, **Swansea** and **Cardiff** on the Welsh coast, and **Whitehaven** on the north-west coast, are also among our important ports.

12. You may judge what exports are sent out from the various ports, if you consider carefully the trade that is carried on in their neighbourhood.

13. You will see from the map (page 119) that the ports are not far distant from our manufacturing centres. This is a great advantage, as the cost of conveying goods to the ports for shipping is much less than it would otherwise be.

ton'-nage mer'-chants re-ceiv'-ing chief'-ly pas'-sen-gers in-hab'-it-ants to-bac'-co es'-tu-ar-y

ware'-hous-es, *buildings for storing goods.*
va-ri-e-ty, *different things.*
mer'-chand-ise, *goods bought and sold.*
ad-van'-tage, *benefit.*
con-vey'-ing, *carrying.*

LESSON 43.

CANALS AND RAILWAYS.

The Express Train.

ABOUT a hundred years ago, all our goods had to be conveyed from one part of the country to another by *road.* All travelling had to be done in the same manner. Going a journey was quite an event in those days, and not one person travelled then for a thousand who travel now.

2. Between the years 1790 and 1815, a great many *canals* were made; and there are still in England and Wales about 2000 miles of canals. These canals connect the largest rivers, and form a very cheap means of conveying goods across the country. One

horse can draw as much on a canal as a good many would on a road. One of the oldest canals is the **Bridgewater**, and one of the longest the **Grand Junction Canal**.

3. But, as trade increased, it was found that the canals were not enough to carry all the goods to be conveyed, and this led to the making of *railways*.

4. The first line was laid between Liverpool and Manchester. The opening of this first line of railway caused great wonder in the country—in fact, in other countries too. Thousands of people gathered together to see the first train start. Great was their astonishment when they saw the first railway engine puffing and steaming off. Many shook their heads, and said that the people in the train would never return; feeling quite sure that they would be left in a tunnel, tumbled over a bridge, or blown to pieces by the bursting of the engine. Many declared that nothing would ever tempt them to rush through the country with the 'iron horse' at the rate of *twenty-five miles an hour*, which in those days was thought good speed even for a train! Now the journey from London to Edinburgh, a distance of about four hundred miles, is performed in nine hours, including stoppages, being at the rate of more than fifty miles an hour.

5. What changes have taken place since George Stephenson made the first locomotive engine! Our land is now one vast network of railways, and we hardly ever meet with anyone who has never travelled by rail.

6. London is the *chief* centre of the English

railways, though Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds,

Preston, Derby, York, Crewe, and Newcastle are also large and important ones.

7. All the principal lines start from London. The

London and North-western, which is the largest and wealthiest railway company in England, starts from Euston Station, and connects London with Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, North Wales, Carlisle, and Scotland.

8. The **Great Northern** starts from King's Cross and runs through Peterborough and Doncaster to York. The **North-eastern** is a continuation of this route to Newcastle, Berwick, and Scotland.

9. The **Midland** starts from St Pancras Station in the north of London, and runs through the midland counties—such as Leicester and Derbyshire, and goes by Sheffield and Leeds on to Carlisle and Scotland.

10. The **Great Eastern** runs from London through the eastern counties to Cambridge, Norwich, and Yarmouth.

11. These are the four principal lines, but there are many shorter ones running in various directions especially from London to the south coast. The **London, Chatham, and Dover** runs from London to Dover. The **South-eastern** runs from London through Kent to Folkestone. The **London Brighton, and South Coast Line** extends as far as Brighton.

12. The **South-western** line extends from London to Land's End, and the **Great Western** runs up the Thames valley and across to Bath, Bristol, Plymouth and Penzance.

tra'-vel-ling	in-creased'	per-formed'	con-tin-u-a'-tion
jour'-ney	coun'-tries	in-clud'-ing	es-pe'-ci-al-ly
con-nect'	a-ston'-ish-ment	wealth'-i-est	ex-tends'

lo-co-mo'-tive en'-gine, *railway engine.* | prin'-ci-pal, *chief.*

LESSON 44.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

The Mail-coach.

OUR trade is greatly aided by the quickness with which messages can be conveyed. In the days when there were no railways, fewer letters were written, and the charge for postage was much higher than it is in our times.

2. Only fifty years ago, it used to cost a shilling to send a letter from London to Edinburgh. The mail-coaches were very important things in those days; not only on account of the letters which they carried, but also owing to the passengers they conveyed. A journey by mail-coach from London to York was a great undertaking, and attended with many inconveniences of road-travelling that are unknown to us in the present day.

3. But now our letters travel by the quickest trains, and we can send one to any part of the British Isles for a penny.

4. The establishment of the **penny post** was due to the energy of the late Sir Rowland Hill, who died only a few years ago.

5. London, of course, sends out and receives the greatest number of letters. Should you ever peep into the General Post-Office in London between the hours of six and eight in the evening, you would be as much astonished as interested to see the preparation for the despatch of the night mails. Directly the box is closed, the huge piles of letters are wheeled across in barrows to the sorting-table. Here they are all looked over and arranged in separate piles according to the railway lines by which they are to be sent. They are then put in large sacks, and handed over to the mail-carts, which are waiting outside to receive them, and convey them to the stations of the various lines of railway by which they are to go.

6. Each mail-train carries a travelling post-office, in which the letters are again 'sorted' according to the towns at which they are to be left. They are then placed in smaller bags, and dropped at the stations as the train passes through. The sides of the postal carriage are supplied with nets, which are let down very quickly as the train passes to take up the bags of letters *from* each town. You will scarcely need to be reminded how much later the postman would bring our letters each morning, if the mail-trains had to *stop* at each station to set down and take up letters.

7. But quickly as letters are conveyed, messages may be sent much more speedily by means of the

electric telegraph. A message from London will reach Edinburgh in the short space of two and a half minutes! About twenty-five millions of telegrams are sent through England and Wales in a year. Most of them are sent on matters of business and commerce—some large business houses spending several thousands of pounds a year on telegrams.

pas'-sen-gers	re-ceives'	sep'-ar-ate	sup-plied'
in-con-ven'-ien-ces	a-ston'-ished	ac-cord'-ing	mes'-sa-ges
e-stab'-lish-ment	in'-ter-est-ed	dropped	e-lec'-tric
en'-er-gy	ar-ranged'	car'-riage	tel'-e-graph

aid'-ed, *helped.*
pre-par-a'-tion, *getting ready for.*
de-spatch', *sending off.*
speed'-i-ly, *quickly.*

LESSON 45.

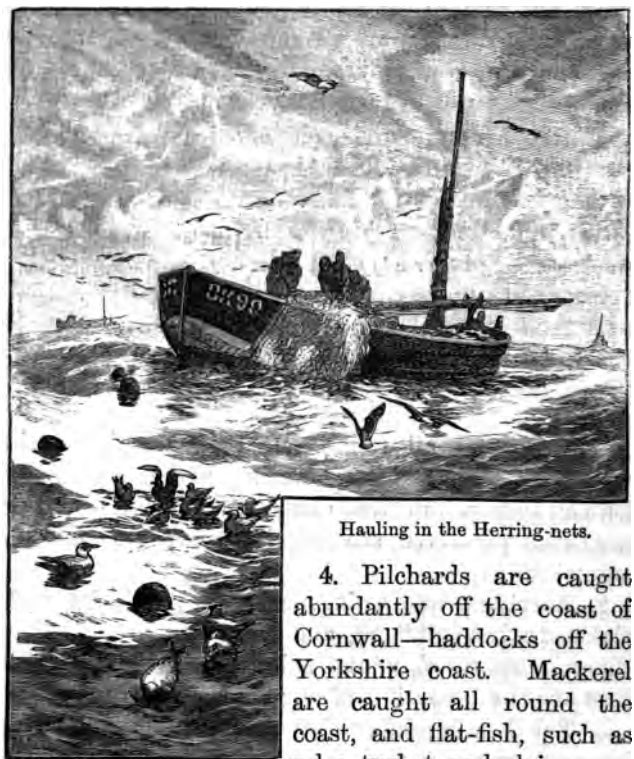
FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN.

FISH abound all round our coasts, and also in many of our rivers, streams, and lakes. They form an important article of food; and when salted or otherwise preserved, are largely exported to foreign countries.

2. **Herrings, pilchards, mackerel, haddocks, cod, plaice, turbot, whiting,** and **soles** are the chief of our *salt-water fish,* whilst **salmon, trout, perch,** and **carp** are the favourites of our *fresh-water* kinds.

3. The herring-fishery has been an important one from a very early period, and is at present a source of much wealth. Very large quantities are 'cured' by salting or smoking, and exported in the form of red herrings, Yarmouth bloaters, or kippered herrings —Scotland being more famed than England for

those last named. The largest quantities are caught off the coast of Norfolk—Yarmouth being the famous fishing-port for them.



Hauling in the Herring-nets.

4. Pilchards are caught abundantly off the coast of Cornwall—haddocks off the Yorkshire coast. Mackerel are caught all round the coast, and flat-fish, such as soles, turbot, and plaice, near the sandbanks. The Dogger Bank, between the coasts of England and Denmark, is noted for its important fisheries.

5. No doubt many of you who read this book,

especially if you live in London, will have paid a visit to the great Fisheries Exhibition. The numberless specimens of curious fishes, and fishing-tackle of almost all nations, together with their fishermen and fishwives in their various costumes, will have made you think more about our own fisheries and fishermen.

6. There are numerous small villages round our coasts which are inhabited almost solely by fishermen and their families. What brave, daring, good-tempered-looking men they are! Their tanned and weather-beaten faces speak of the long, and often most severe, exposure which they undergo in order to obtain for us the food in which the sea abounds. Many of the very small islands which lie off our coasts are the solitary homes of a few fishermen, who come ashore to sell their fish and purchase provisions.

7. Their work is done in the darkness of night. The fishing-smacks sail out in small fleets generally, each one carrying its own lamp and nets. It is very interesting to watch them set out on their dreary errand. The men look as much at home on sea as on land; but if the night threatens to be stormy, how anxious their wives and children, who are watching them start out, seem to be! And well they may; for often a smack goes down, and no trace of it is ever found.

8. Sometimes a small trawling-boat goes out alone. A few years ago, we saw one set out from one of our east coast fishing-stations one evening, having three men and a boy on board. The wives of the men, with their children and babies, watched them as far

as they could see. A great storm arose in the night, and next morning, on going down to the beach, we found that all that remained of the boat was a small piece of the board on which her name was painted, and which had drifted ashore, and by which we knew that the boat had been dashed to pieces by the violence of the storm.

pre-served'	plaice	spec'-i-mens	er'-rand
for'-eign	fa'-vour-ites	sole'-ly	threat'-ens
mack'-er-el	ex-hi-bi'-tion	pro-vis'-ions	watch'-ing

cured, *preserved by salt, or smoke-dried.*
a-bun'-dant-ly, *very plentifully.*
fish'-ing-tac'-kle, *nets, lines, &c.*
cos-tumes', *dresses.*
vi'-o-lence, *great force.*

LESSON 46.

THE WIVES OF BRIXHAM.

1. The merry boats of Brixham
Go out to search the seas;
A staunch and sturdy fleet are they,
Who love a swinging breeze;
And along the woods of Devon,
And the silver cliffs of Wales,
You may see, when summer evenings fall,
The light upon their sails.

2. But when the year grows darker,
And gray winds hunt the foam,
They go back to little Brixham
And ply their toils at home;
And so it chanced, one winter's day,
When the wind began to roar,

That all the men were out at sea,
And all the wives on shore.

3. Then as the storm grew fiercer,
The women's cheeks grew white;
It was fiercer through the twilight,
And fiercest in the night;
The strong clouds set themselves like ice,
With not a star to melt,
And the blackness of the darkness
Was something to be felt.

4. The men on shore were trembling,
They grieved for what they knew;
What do you think the women did?
Love taught them what to do.
Up spoke a wife, 'We've beds at home—
We'll burn them for a light—
Give us the men and the bare ground—
We want no more to-night.'

5. They took the grandame's blanket,
Who shivered and bade them go;
They took the baby's pillow,
Who could not say them no;
And they heaped a great fire on the pier,
And knew not all the while
If they were heaping a bonfire,
Or only a funeral pile.

6. And, fed with precious food, the flame
Shone bravely on the black,
Till a cry went through the people,
'A boat is coming back!'

Staggering dimly through the fog,
They see, and then they doubt—
But when the first prow strikes the pier,
Cannot you hear them shout?

7. Then, all along the breadth of flame
Dark figures shrieked and ran,
With 'Child, here comes your father!'
Or 'Wife, is this your man?'
And faint feet touch the welcome stone
And stay a little while,
And kisses drop from frozen lips
Too tired to speak or smile.

8. And this is what the men must do
Who work in wind and foam,
And this is what the women bear
Who watch for them at home:
So, when you see a Brixham boat
Go out to meet the gales,
Think of the love that travels
Like light upon her sails!

M. B. S.

swing'-ing	twi'-light	shiv'-ered	stag'-ger-ing
fiero'-er	grieved	pre'-cious	shrieked

Brix'-ham, *a coast town on Tor Bay, Devonshire.*
staunch, *stout and strong.*
fun'-er-al pile, *a fire heaped up for the dead.*

LESSON 47.

LIGHTHOUSES AND LIFEBOATS.

A Lighthouse.

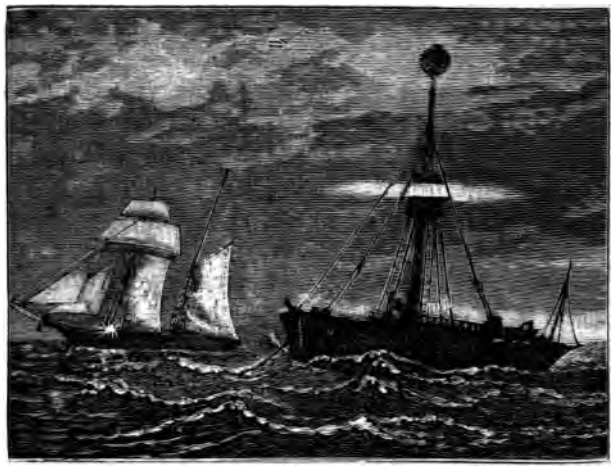
OUR brave sailors and fishermen would be in still more peril but for the precautions for saving life that are taken along our coasts.

2. Over two hundred **lighthouses** are placed on the bold rocky promontories or other dangerous parts of our shores, to warn approaching vessels of their danger. Some of them have fixed lights, some flashing, others revolving—some are coloured, others not. Mariners are well acquainted with them all, and can tell by the movement of the lights, or the colour of them, what part of the coast they are nearing.

3. The most famous of them is the Eddystone lighthouse, about fourteen miles from Plymouth. It was built about one hundred and twenty years ago; in consequence, however, of the decay of the rock on which it stood, it has been taken down and rebuilt on an eminence near Plymouth. A new lighthouse, near the site of the old one, was finished in 1882, and is the fourth which has been erected upon these rocks. Two large bells hang out-

side, near the top of the lighthouse, and these are sounded during foggy weather, when the light cannot be so well seen. The light is visible at a distance of about seventeen miles.

4. On the sandbanks which lie out from the coast, and on the low, sandy promontories where it is impossible to build lighthouses, **beacon-lights** or



A Light-ship.

light-ships give the necessary warning. The dangerous Goodwin Sands, which have been the scene of so many fearful wrecks, are guarded in this way.

5. Some of the beacons are fixed, and the light they show is a *borrowed* one, being thrown upon their reflectors by a beam of light from a lighthouse on shore.

6. Light-ships are anchored near some of the

dangerous spots round the coast. The light they show proceeds from a circular lantern which surrounds the mast on which it is hoisted. They are generally manned by a crew of eleven men, who would be able to work the ship if she broke adrift from her moorings.

7. Though every care is thus taken, wrecks frequently occur around our shores. The loss of life caused by them is very great, but much smaller than it was previous to the invention of lifeboats.

8. It is nearly a century since the first lifeboat was invented. Before that time wrecks were often seen from the shore, but no one had the means of rescuing the brave seamen who were on board. Now, hundreds of ships' crews are rescued every year by means of lifeboats. Upwards of two hundred and fifty are stationed round the coast, ready, at any hour of the day or night, to launch on a stormy sea to save those who are in danger.

9. Each boat is placed on a light truck, so as to be easily run down into the water. There is intense excitement amongst the spectators on shore when the boat is launched, and her brave crew of eleven men, in their cork jackets, set out on their hopeful task. How anxiously they are watched! Their little bark is so tossed on the waves that it seems almost impossible for anything so light to last through the storm. But its lightness is its safety—there is so much cork in its construction that it cannot sink, and if upset, will right itself again.

10. The return of the lifeboat, with its precious burden of lives which would have been lost but for

its timely aid, is a signal for deafening cheers from those who have watched its proceedings.

11. Sometimes ships' crews are rescued from wrecks by ropes, which are cleverly thrown to them from the shore by means of a rocket, which is attached to the end and fired.

pro'-mon-tor-ies	de-cay'	pro-ceeds'	pre'-vi-ous
dan'-ger-ous	ne'-ces-sar-y	cir'-cu-lar	res'-cued
col'-oured	bea'-cons	hoist'-ed	ex-cite'-ment
ac-quaint'-ed	bor'-rowed	manned	con-struc'-tion
con'-se-quence	an'-chored	oc-cur'	pro-ceed'-ings

pre-cau'-tions, *care taken beforehand.*
re-volv'-ing, *turning round.*
mar'-i-ners, *seamen.*
em'-i-nence, *height.*
vis'-i-ble, *that may be seen.*
re-flec'-tors, *polished surface that reflect the light thrown upon them.*
in-tense', *very great.*
spec-ta'-tors, *lookers-on.*
rocket, *a firework shot through the air.*

LESSON 48.

THE SEVEN EASTERN COUNTIES.

THE seven eastern counties of England are Northumberland, Durham, York, Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex, all of which border on the North Sea.

2. **Northumberland**, as you are already aware, contains one of the largest coal-fields in England, as well as valuable iron-mines. The largest town in the county is **Newcastle-upon-Tyne**, one of the busiest and most thriving towns in our land. It is famed for its export of coal, its shipbuilding, and large manufactures of iron, steel, chemicals, and glass. **North Shields** and **Tynemouth** also build ships and

export coal. **Alnwick**, in the north-east of the county, has a magnificent castle, the seat of the famous

family of Percy. **Berwick-on-Tweed**, in the north of the county, is the most northerly town in England.

It is still surrounded by its ancient walls, though its famous castle is now replaced by a great railway station.

3. **Durham** has also numerous coal-mines. **South Shields, Sunderland, Hartlepool, Gateshead,** and **Stockton,** its chief towns, stand in a row along the coast, and each builds ships, exports coal, and possesses many kinds of manufactures. Sunderland is the chief port and the largest town in the

Durham Cathedral.

county. The county town is **Durham,** where there are a noble cathedral and a university.

4. **Yorkshire** is almost like a separate little country, with its own mountains, its own rivers, its own special industries and people. The county town is **York,** which has one of the finest cathedrals in England, known by the name of York Minster. It is

divided into three parts called *Ridings*. The *West Riding* is the most important, because it possesses most mines and most manufacturing towns. **Leeds** is the largest of them. It has many extensive woollen factories, and machinery of every kind is made there. **Bradford** is the chief seat of the spinning and weaving of worsted yarn. **Halifax** and **Huddersfield** have an extensive woollen trade. **Sheffield**, so famed for its steel and cutlery, is in the south of this Riding, on the borders of Derbyshire. The *North Riding* is a farming district. But in it stands **Middlesborough**, the capital of the Cleveland iron district. In the *East Riding*, the chief town is **Hull**, the chief seaport in Yorkshire.

5. **Lincolnshire** is a county of moor, wold, and fen. The wolds are in the north; the fens, described in a previous lesson, lie around the shores of the Wash. The county town is **Lincoln**, whose fine cathedral has a famous bell known as 'Great Tom of Lincoln.' **Grimsby** and **Boston** are the chief ports of Lincolnshire.

6. **Norfolk** is a very rich, level, corn-growing part of England. Its farmers are famous for their skill in agriculture. The low country on the east coast abounds in large pools called 'broads,' which abound in fish and are the haunts of numerous wild-fowl. Norfolk sends immense numbers of turkeys, geese, hares, and partridges to the London market. **Norwich**, the county town, has large manufactures of silk and wool, and possesses a splendid cathedral. **Yarmouth**, the trading port of the county, is famed for its herring-fishery.

7. **Suffolk** is also an agricultural county. It not only grows **wheat**, but is famous for its **sheep** and **cows**, and also for a strong little horse called the 'Suffolk punch.' The county town is **Ipswich**, where Cardinal Wolsey was born, and which manufactures large quantities of agricultural machinery. **Lowestoft**, the most easterly town in England, is on the coast of Suffolk.

8. **Essex** has in its western part a rich soil; but its coasts are low and marshy, and much cut up by the sea. **Chelmsford** is its county town—the largest town being **Colchester**, so famous for oysters. **Harwich-on-the-Naze** is a packet station for the Continent.

con-tains'	sur-round'-ed	spe'-cial	cap'-i-tal
chem'-i-cals	an'-cient	in'-dus-tries	de-scribed
mag-nif'-i-cent	sep'-ar-ate	ma-chin'-er-y	oys'-ters

ca-the'-dral, *the principal church of a district, and the seat of a bishop.*
un-i-ver'-si-ty, *a place where the highest branches of learning are taught.*
ag'-ri-cul-ture, *tilling the soil and reaping the crops.*
im-mense', *great.*
pack'-et sta'-tion, *a port for steamers which carry passengers and letters.*

LESSON 49.

THE SEVEN WESTERN COUNTIES.

THE seven western counties, in their order from north to south, are Cumberland, Westmoreland, Lancashire, and Cheshire on the coast; and Shropshire, Hereford, and Monmouth on the borders of Wales.

2. **Cumberland** is a mountainous and rugged

country, containing the highest mountains and most of the lakes of England. Its chief wealth consists in coal and iron. The towns of Whitehaven, Workington, and Maryport export the coal and iron of the district. The largest town is **Carlisle**—a very ancient town, with a fine old castle and a cathedral. It is famous for the manufacture of biscuits. **Keswick** is the seat of the black-lead pencil manufacture.

3. **Westmoreland** is about half the size of Cumberland, and is famed for its lovely scenery. The county town is **Appleby**, which is the smallest county town in England. The largest town is **Kendal**, where some cotton and woollen goods are made, also needles and fish-hooks.

4. **Lancashire** is one of the greatest and richest counties in England. Though only the sixth in size, it is the first in population, and combines in the highest degree manufactures and commerce. North Lancashire is agricultural and pastoral; South Lancashire is the richest and most populous part of England, and is the great seat of our cotton manufacture. **Manchester**, the great cotton metropolis, and **Liverpool**, the cotton port, are both in South Lancashire, as are also the cotton-spinning towns of **Bolton, Wigan, Blackburn, Bury, Preston, Rochdale**, and **Oldham**. The county town is Lancaster. **Barrow-in-Furness**, which in 1840 was a fishing village, has grown into a great mining and iron-smelting town. It has a population of about 50,000, and has the largest steel-works in Great Britain.

5. **Cheshire** is a low, flat district, with a light and

sandy soil, and a moist climate. Hence it has plenty of good **pasture**, and **dairy farms** famous for their excellent cheese. You have previously read of the famous salt-mines in this county. The county town is **Chester**, which is still surrounded by walls, on the top of which you may walk all round the city. Numerous old houses, with carved timber gables, give the city a peculiarly picturesque appearance. The cathedral is a magnificent structure of red sandstone. **Macclesfield**, **Stockport**, and **Crewe** are the other chief towns of the county. Crewe is a central station for several important railways, and here the London and North-western Railway Company have extensive carriage and locomotive works.

6. **Shropshire** is mountainous in the north and level in the south. The eastern part of the county is a farming district, whilst the western has salt, coal, and iron mines. Colebrook-Dale is a famous iron district almost as black as the 'Black Country' of South Staffordshire. The county town is **Shrewsbury**.

7. **Hereford** is a fertile county full of **hop-gardens** and **orchards**. The apples grown so largely are used in making large quantities of cider. Pears are also grown very extensively, and there is scarcely an acre of waste ground in the whole county. The county town, **Hereford**, has a fine cathedral.

8. **Monmouth** is almost as much a Welsh county as an English one, the Welsh language being very generally spoken. It is a farming, mining, and flannel-weaving county. The county town is **Monmouth**, a small place where Henry V. was born. The

county is famous for the many ruins of old Norman castles which it contains.

coun'-ties	scen'-er-y	pre'-vi-ous-ly	cen'-tral
dis'-trict	ag-ri-cul'-tur-al	pe-cu'-li-ar-ly	lo-co-mo'-tive
Car-lisle'	Man'-ches-ter	pic-tur-esque'	moun'-tain-ous
bis'-cuits	Liv'-er-pool	ap-pear'-ance	quan'-ti-ties
man-u-fac'-ture	ex'-cel-lent	ca-the'-dral	lan'-guage

an'-cient, *very old.*
com-bines', *joins together.*
pas'-tor-al, *suited for feeding sheep and cattle.*
pop'-u-lous, *full of people.*
me-trop'-o-lis, *chief city.*
struc'-ture, *building.*
fer'-tile, *very productive.*

LESSON 50.

THE SIX WEST-MIDLAND COUNTIES.

THE six west-midland counties are Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, and Oxfordshire.

2. **Derbyshire** is one of the most beautiful and mountainous counties in England. The county is rich in coal, lead, iron, stone, and marble. The river Derwent divides the county into two parts—the one manufacturing and the other agricultural. The county town, which is also the largest, is **Derby**. It is the centre of very large railway-works, and it also manufactures silk, cotton, and hosiery. The first silk-mill in England was erected in Derby early in the eighteenth century. Chesterfield, in the north, is a smaller manufacturing town. Buxton and Matlock are famous for their mineral waters.

3. **Staffordshire** is a wealthy county with abundance of coal, clay, and iron. **Stafford** is the county town, **Wolverhampton** the largest. Brewing is

carried on to a great extent at **Burton-on-Trent**. North Staffordshire is famed as the 'Potteries District.' South Staffordshire is known as the 'Black Country.' Staffordshire is one of our richest counties. The clay and iron which it produces and manufactures, are sources of much wealth, as is also its coal.

4. **Warwickshire** lies south-east of Staffordshire, and is the central county of England. The largest town is **Birmingham**, whose far-famed 'wares' you know something of already. **Warwick**, the county town, possesses the ruins of one of the largest old castles in England. Not far from Warwick is Kenilworth Castle, once a favourite residence of Queen Elizabeth. The second largest town in the county is **Coventry**, famous for the manufacture of ribbons, watches, and bicycles. Stratford-on-Avon is noted as Shakspeare's birthplace.

5. **Worcestershire** is a lovely county growing large quantities of wheat, hops, and orchard fruit. The county town, **Worcester**, has a fine cathedral, and manufactures fine porcelain. **Kidderminster** is noted for its manufacture of carpets. **Dudley** manufactures hardware.

6. **Gloucestershire** is a county of valleys, forests, and hills. It has the valley of the Severn in the middle, the Cotswold Hills in the east, and the Forest of Dean in the west. The Cotswold Hills are famous for sheep-farming. **Bristol** is the largest town in the county, and is a great seaport. **Gloucester**, the county town, is a small cathedral city situated in a very lovely valley called the Vale of Gloucester.

7. **Oxfordshire** is chiefly a farming county. But it contains the oldest and most famous university in England, **Oxford**, one of whose colleges is said to have been founded by Alfred the Great. With its numerous beautiful colleges and churches, it is one of the most interesting cities of England. Oxford is also the county town.

man-u-fac'-tur-ing	Pot'-ter-ies	fa'-vour-ite	sit'-u-at-ed
ag-ri-cul'-tur-al	Bir'-ming-ham	rib'-bons	un-i-ver'-si-ty
min'-er-al	pos-ses'-ses	bi'-cy-cles	col'-leg-es

hos'-i-er-y, *stockings, &c.* | porce'-lain, *fine china-ware.*

LESSON 51.

THE TEN EAST-MIDLAND COUNTIES.

THE ten east-midland counties are Nottingham, Leicestershire, Rutlandshire, Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, and Middlesex.

2. **Nottingham** is chiefly an agricultural county, famous for its corn and cattle. It also contains a portion of the largest coal-field in England. The county town is **Nottingham**, on the Trent, where large quantities of stockings and lace are made.

3. **Leicestershire** is a great pastoral county. Its sheep are noted for their long wool. The county town is **Leicester**, the chief seat of the woollen hosiery manufacture. West from Leicester is Market-Bosworth, near which was fought the battle of Bosworth.

4. **Rutlandshire** is a pretty little farming county, so small that you could walk across it in a few hours.

It is covered with beautiful woods, blooming orchards, and well-timbered parks round the houses of the rich landowners. Its quiet little towns are not much more than villages, the county town being **Oakham**.

5. **Northamptonshire** is a rich farming county, which sends large numbers of fat cattle to the London market. The county town, **Northampton**, is famed for its large manufacture of boots and shoes. **Peterborough** has one of the finest cathedrals in England. Not far from Peterborough stood Fotheringay Castle, where Mary, Queen of Scots, was imprisoned and afterwards beheaded. The most famous historical spot in this county is **Naseby**, where the last great battle of the Civil War was fought.

6. **Huntingdonshire** is a small agricultural county; and its county town, **Huntingdon**, is noted as being the birthplace of Oliver Cromwell.

7. **Cambridgeshire** is a rich farming county. Its county town, **Cambridge**, is the seat of one of the two great universities of England. **Ely**, a few miles north-east of Cambridge, has a magnificent cathedral, perhaps the largest church in England. It stands on a knoll of land which was once an island among vast swamps and rivers, and which is still known as the Isle of Ely.

8. **Bedfordshire** lies between Northampton and Cambridge. It is a small county, the greater part of which is in pasture; but there are many market-gardens which send large quantities of fruit and vegetables to London. The county town is **Bedford**. Not far from Bedford is the village of Elstow, where John Bunyan, the author of the *Pilgrim's*

Progress, was born in 1628. Straw-plaiting is carried on in various parts of the county, and some agricultural machinery is made at Bedford.

9. **Buckinghamshire** is a long strip of land between the Great Ouse and the Thames. In the centre of this beautiful county lies the Vale of Aylesbury, a very rich grazing land, which sends every morning to London thousands of gallons of milk, and also large quantities of cheese. The county town is **Aylesbury**. The best-known town is Eton, a small place, but the seat of the largest and greatest English public school. It stands on the left bank of the Thames, opposite Windsor.

10. **Hertfordshire** lies south of Bedfordshire, and is a small county which grows barley and makes malt. The county town is **Hertford**; but the oldest and most famous city is **St Albans**, which contains a beautiful cathedral.

11. **Middlesex** has large grass farms, numerous market-gardens, and many clay-fields, out of which the bricks are made that build up **London**. As Middlesex contains the largest part of London, it is one of our most populous counties. Its county town is a village called **Brentford**. **Harrow** has one of the greatest of English public schools, and at **Enfield** is a busy government factory for making firearms.

por'-tion	**im-pris'-oned**	**pas'-ture**	**Mid'-dle-sex**
quan'-ti-ties	**be-head'-ed**	**ve'-ge-ta-bles**	**num'-er-ous**
beau'-ti-ful	**Cam'-bridge**	**ma-chin'-er-y**	**con-tains'**
Foth'-er-in-gay	**un-i-ver'-si-ties**	**op'-po-site**	**pop'-u-lous**

pas'-tor-al, *suited for feeding sheep and cattle.*

his-tor'-i-cal, *belonging to history.*

graz'-ing land, *land adapted for feeding sheep and cattle.*

LESSON 52.

THE TEN SOUTHERN COUNTIES.

THE ten southern counties of England, in their order from east to west, are Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Berkshire, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Dorsetshire, Somersetshire, Devonshire, and Cornwall. Most of these counties are on the English Channel, and have excellent harbours.

2. **Kent** is one of the richest counties in England. Its beautiful plains are thick with cherry and apple orchards; and the county is also famous for the large quantities of hops grown in it. In addition to its agricultural wealth, the county possesses a number of important and thriving towns. **Dover** and **Folkestone** are packet-ports for France; **Margate** and **Ramsgate** are famous watering-places; and **Chatham** and **Sheerness** have large government shipbuilding yards, where many of the ships of our navy are built. **Woolwich**, on the Thames, is the place where guns, gunpowder, and other things used in war are made; **Greenwich**, a little above it, is famous for its Royal Observatory. The county town is **Maidstone** on the Medway. **Canterbury** is one of the oldest cities in England, and has a very beautiful cathedral, which contains the official chair of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is Primate of all England.

3. **Surrey** is a lovely county, with hills and valleys, woods and heath-covered plains, and noble pines. It is also one of the hop-growing counties.

The county town is **Guildford**—the largest, **Croydon**. Other towns are Kew and Richmond, each with a royal palace, and Kingston, which was a royal town in the days of the Saxon kings. The stone upon which seven of these monarchs were crowned is still preserved. Not far from Kingston is a meadow called Runnymede, where it is said King John signed the Great Charter.

4. **Sussex** is a farming and hop-growing county. It is hilly in the south, where the grassy ranges of the North and South Downs run across it; and in many parts it is thickly wooded. The county town is **Lewes**; but the largest town is **Brighton**, an attractive watering-place. **Hastings** and **St Leonards** form one long town. Near Hastings is the village of **Battle**, where was fought the famous battle of Hastings in 1066. The divisions of Sussex are remarkable. They are called *Rapes*. There are six of them, and each had its own piece of sea-coast and its own fortress.

5. **Berkshire** is a well-wooded and fertile county. The only town of any importance is **Reading**, which is also the county town. It is a great corn market; and it also contains the largest biscuit factory in the world. *Windsor Castle* stands in the extreme east of the county. Alfred the Great was born at Wantage, in the north of the county.

6. **Hampshire** is not such a fertile county as those immediately surrounding it. A wide extent of it is covered by the New Forest. Still it grows some corn, hops, and orchard fruits, and is famous for the rearing of pigs. The largest town is **Portsmouth**,

the chief naval port in England, and the headquarters of the British navy. It is also an arsenal, where stores for the navy are made and kept, and it is

Windsor Castle.

strongly fortified. The county town is **Winchester**, the royal city of the Saxons, and once the capital of England. It has a cathedral, with an interior unsurpassed for beauty. **Southampton** is one of the principal steam-packet stations of England. It has extensive docks and shipbuilding yards. The Isle of Wight forms part of Hampshire.

ex'-cel-lent	mon'-archs	re-mark'-a-ble	im-me'-di-ate-ly
pos-ses'-ses	pre-served'	fer'-tile	Ports'-mouth
gov'-ern-ment	Bright'-on	im-port'-ance	Win'-ches-ter
ob-serv'-a-tor-y	at-tract'-ive	bis'-cuit	prin'-ci-pal
of-fi'-ci-al	di-vis'-ions	Wind'-sor	sta'-tions

packet-ports, *ports for steamers which carry passengers and letters.*

Pri'-mate, *the person holding the highest position in the Church of England.*

cap'-i-tal, *chief city.*

LESSON 53.

THE TEN SOUTHERN COUNTIES—*continued.*

WILTSHIRE has a very fertile soil both in the north and in the south—and the chalk tableland in the middle forms splendid pasturage for thousands of sheep. The county town is **Salisbury**. It has a very fine and interesting cathedral with a spire 400 feet high—the highest in England. The largest town in the county is **Swindon**, with active railway works. **Marlborough** has an important college or public school. The chief manufacture of Wiltshire is West of England broadcloth—the towns which weave it being Bradford and Trowbridge.

2. **Dorsetshire** is engaged chiefly in the rearing of sheep, and is far-famed for its dairy produce. **Dorchester**, on the Frome, is the county town, and one of the oldest towns in England. The Isle of Portland forms part of this county, being joined to the mainland by Chesil Bank—a ridge, ten miles long, composed of loose pebbles.

3. **Somersetshire** is a county with very varied scenery—hills of all shapes, lovely woods, and clear streams. **Bath** is one of the oldest towns in England, and was a fashionable watering-place in the time of the Romans. **Taunton** is the county town. **Wells,**

a town about fifteen miles from Bath, has a very fine cathedral.

4. **Devonshire,** the third in size among the counties of England, is also one of the most beautiful and fertile. Its scenery is most varied, presenting both the wild and romantic, and the pretty and picturesque. **Exeter,** on the Exe, is the county town, and possesses a beautiful cathedral. The largest town is **Plymouth,** which, with **Devonport,** forms one continuous city, and is the second largest station for the British navy. From Plymouth Hoe, a height in front of the town, the Spanish Armada was first seen approaching our shores in 1588. **Torquay** is a famous watering-place.

5. **Cornwall,** the peninsular county which forms the south-western extremity of England, is famed for its rich productions of metals and minerals. The richest mines lie in the south-west, in a district of which Truro is the centre. The county town is **Bodmin**—the largest, **Truro,** which is a cathedral city. **Penzance, Truro,** and **Launceston** are called the 'Stannary Towns,' because it is there that the blocks of tin* are stamped to show their weight and value. **St Ives** is the headquarters of the pilchard fishery—millions of these fish being caught here every year. **Falmouth** is an old packet station, which was at one time larger and more famous than Southampton. Between Penzance and Land's End is the celebrated *Logan Stone.* This is an immense mass of granite, supposed to weigh over eighty tons, and which is so exactly poised on the

* *Stannum* is the Latin word for *tin.*

top of another rock, that one man can set it in motion. The **Scilly Isles** belong to Cornwall. They are noted for their soft warm climate, and are supposed to have abounded in tin centuries ago. Five of them are inhabited, but their population does not reach 3000. They send early vegetables to the London market—green peas and cauliflowers being ripe there three weeks earlier than in Middlesex.

The Logan Stone.

col'-lege	fash'-ion-a-ble	ap-proach'-ing	cel'-e-brat-ed
com-posed'	ro-man'-tic	pen-in'-su-lar	im-mense'
peb'-bles	con-tin'-u-ous	ex-trem'-i-ty	cen'-tu-ries
scen'-er-y	Ar-ma'-da	Stan'-na-ry	cau'-li-flow-ers

pas'-tur-age, *grass.*
broad'-cloth, *a fine woollen cloth of double width.*
pil'-chard, *a fish something like the herring.*
poised, *balanced.*

LESSON 54.

THE WELSH COUNTIES.

THE six counties of North Wales are Anglesea, Carnarvon, Denbigh, Flint, Merioneth, and Montgomery.

2. **Anglesea** consists of the Isle of Anglesea mentioned in a previous lesson. **Beaumaris** is the county town, which possesses the ruins of a castle

built by Edward I. **Holyhead** is the mail station for Ireland.

3. **Carnarvon** is the most mountainous county in Wales, and contains Snowdon, the highest mountain in England and Wales. The county is famed for its fine slate-quarries—especially that of Penrhyn. The county town is **Carnarvon**, where there is a magnificent old castle, in which Edward II. was born. **Bangor** has an interesting old cathedral. This city has been chosen as the seat of the new College of North Wales.

4. **Denbigh** is a very pretty county, with rugged hills and valleys, but parts of it are barren and mountainous. It has mines of coal, iron, lead, and slate. The county town is **Ruthin**; the largest, **Wrexham**, which is the chief town for the Welsh flannel manufacture. **Llangollen** is beautifully situated on the river Dee, and is one of the loveliest little towns in Wales.

5. **Flint** is the smallest county in Wales. Its wealth consists in mines of coal, lead, and iron. The county town is **Mold. St Asaph**, though now a mere village, is still an episcopal city, with a cathedral.

6. **Merioneth** is a very mountainous county, producing copper, lead, and slate. The county town is **Bala**, and the largest, **Dolgelly**, which manufactures Welsh flannel.

7. **Montgomeryshire** is the county in Wales which produces the largest supply of lead ore. The county town is **Montgomery.** But **Welshpool** is the largest town—is, in fact, the capital of North Wales, and has a far-famed reputation for its excellent flannels.

8. The six counties of South Wales are Cardigan, Radnor, Pembroke, Carmarthen, Brecknock, and Glamorgan.

9. **Cardigan** has a range of mountains running through the middle of it, but it is level and fertile towards the coast. It has some lead-mines and slate-quarries. The county town is **Cardigan.**

10. **Radnor** is the least populous of all the Welsh counties, for it contains a great deal of moor, marsh, and waste land. It is a sheep-rearing county, and its county town, **Presteign**, is a mere village.

11. **Pembroke** is a beautiful farming county. Its coast is much indented by the sea, the most famous inlet being Milford Haven. **Pembroke** is the county town. It has a government dockyard. **St David's** is little more than a village, but has a fine cathedral.

12. **Carmarthen**, the largest county in Wales, consists of the long Vale of Towy, about fifty miles in length, with ranges of hills and mountains on each edge of it. Its mines yield copper and lead, and the lead ore contains some silver. The county town is **Carmarthen**, but the largest is **Llanelly**, which ships much coal and tin.

13. **Brecknock** is the most mountainous county in South Wales, and has mines of copper, iron, and lead. The county town is **Brecon.**

14. **Glamorgan** is the wealthiest, busiest, and most populous of all the counties of Wales. The south is filled by the fertile Vale of Glamorgan; and the north by hills, among which are numerous coal-mines, iron-mines, and smelting-works. The county town is **Cardiff**, from which coal and iron are largely

exported. It is one of the most prosperous and growing towns in the country, and has been chosen as the seat of the College of South Wales. Close by this great modern town is the ancient episcopal city of **Llandaff**, now a mere village, but which gives its name to a bishopric, and has a fine cathedral. **Merthyr Tydvil** and **Swansea** are the chief centres of the iron and copper smelting works of South Wales.

An'-gle-sea	moun'-tain-ous	ex'-cel-lent	bus'-i-est
con-sists'	quar'-ries	flan'-nels	num'-er-ous
men'-tioned	e-spe'-ci-al-ly	fer'-tile	bish'-op-ric
pre'-vi-ous	man-u-fac'-ture	pop'-u-lous	cen'-tres

e-pis'-co-pal cit'-y, *a city which is the seat of a bishop.*

rep-u-ta'-tion, *good name.*

in-dent'-ed, *broken into.*

pros'-per-ous, *thriving.*

LESSON 55.

NAPOLEON AND THE SAILOR.

1. Napoleon's banners at Boulogne
   Armed in our island every freeman;
   His navy chanced to capture one
   Poor British seaman.

2. They suffered him—I know not how—
   Unprisoned on the shore to roam;
   And aye was bent his longing brow
   On England's home.

3. His eye, methinks, pursued the flight
   Of birds to Britain half-way over
   With envy—*they* could reach the white,
   Dear cliffs of Dover.

4. At last, when care had banished sleep,
He saw one morning—dreaming—doting,
An empty hogshead from the deep
Come shoreward floating.

5. He hid it in a cave, and wrought
The livelong day laborious; lurking
Until he launched a tiny boat
By mighty working.

6. For ploughing in the salt sea field,
It would have made the boldest shudder;
Untarred, uncompassed, and unkeeled,
No sail—no rudder!

7. From neighbouring woods he interlaced
His sorry skiff with wattled willows;
And thus equipped, he would have passed
The foaming billows.

8. But Frenchmen caught him on the beach,
His little Argo sorely jeering;
Till tidings of him chanced to reach
Napoleon's hearing.

9. With folded arms Napoleon stood,
Serene alike in peace and danger,
And in his wonted attitude
Addressed the stranger:

10. 'Rash man, that wouldst yon channel pass
On twigs and staves so rudely fashioned,
Thy heart with some sweet British lass
Must be impassioned.'

11. 'I have no sweetheart,' said the lad;
'But, absent long from one another,
Great was the longing that I had
To see my mother.'

12. 'And so thou shalt!' Napoleon said;
'Ye 've both my favour fairly won:
A noble mother must have bred
So brave a son.'

13. He gave the tar a piece of gold,
And with a flag of truce commanded
He should be shipped to England Old,
And safely landed.

14. Our sailor oft could scantily shift
To find a dinner plain and hearty;
But never changed the coin and gift
Of Bonapartè.

Campbell.

Na-pol'-eon	hogs'-head	fash'-ioned	com-mand'-ed
un-pris'-oned	la-bor'-i-ous	im-pas'-sioned	scant'-i-ly
ban'-ished	in-ter-laced'	sweet'-heart	Bon-a-par-tè

ban'-ners, *the flags of an army.*
Bou-logne', *a seaport of France, on the Strait of Dover.*
cap'-ture, *take as a prisoner.*
roam, *wander up and down.*
pur-sued', *followed.*
un-com'-passed, *without a compass or instrument for steering.*
un-keeled', *without a proper bottom. The* keel *is the principal timber along the bottom of a ship.*
rud'-der, *the instrument by which a ship is steered or guided.*
e-quipped', *made ready.*
bil'-lows, *great waves of the sea.*
Ar'-go, *or Argosy, another name for a ship.*
jeer'-ing, *laughing at.*
wont'-ed at'-ti-tude, *usual manner.*
ad-dressed', *spoke to.*

LESSON 56.

LONDON.

The Tower of London.

LONDON, the capital of England, is the largest, wealthiest, and most populous city in the world. It is built upon both banks of the Thames—the two sides of the city being connected by the fine bridges which span that river. The finest are Waterloo, Westminster, and London Bridges. Another means of communication between the two sides is through the Thames Tunnel, which was originally a *footway* under the bed of the river, but is now a *railway*.

2. Though many capitals surpass ours in the grandeur of their appearance, none is equal to London as a commercial city, nor so well supplied with every convenience for the welfare and health of its inhabitants. Englishmen visit continental capitals, and gaze in admiration upon their splendid buildings; whilst foreigners flock in crowds to

London and wonder at her size, her wealth, her trade, and her immense population, and are compelled to own that she is the greatest of all cities.

3. Many foreigners are numbered amongst London's four millions of inhabitants. Men of almost every race are to be found in various quarters of the great city.

4. Amongst the buildings of great interest which London contains, the Tower is one of the chief. It was first a Norman fortress, founded by William the Conqueror, and has been used as a palace, a prison, and a mint; and is now an arsenal where the regalia are kept for safety. Westminster Abbey is historically interesting as the scene of the coronation and burial of many of our kings since the time of Edward I., and of great national interest, as containing many monuments of great men, many of whom are buried there.

5. St Paul's Cathedral; the British Museum; the Mint, where our coins are made; the Houses of Parliament, where our laws are made; and the New Law Courts, in which those laws are enforced, are among the 'sights' to be seen by all who visit London. St Paul's Cathedral is the largest Protestant church in the world.

6. Previous to the Great Fire of 1666, a large portion of London was built of wood. The ravages made by the fire extended over hundreds of acres, thus leaving the great city literally in ruins. But much good came out of this great evil. It cleared the city of the Great Plague, which had swept away so many of its inhabitants during the previous year,

and led to the rebuilding of London in a much better style. In the short space of four years, London was rebuilt on an entirely different plan, which helped greatly to promote the health and welfare of its inhabitants.

wealth'-i-est	grand'-eur	con-ven'-ience	cor-o-na'-tion
pop'-u-lous	ap-pear'-ance	wel'-fare	mus-e'-um
con-nect'-ed	com-mer'-ci-al	ad-mir-a'-tion	par'-li-a-ment

cap'-i-tal, *chief city.*
com-mun-i-ca'-tion, *passage from one to the other.*
or-ig'-in-al-ly, *at first.*
sur-pass', *exceed, or go beyond.*
for'-eign-ers, *people from other countries.*
ar'-sen-al, *a place where weapons of war are kept.*
re-ga'-li-a, *the crown and jewels worn by our monarchs when crowned.*
lit'-er-al-ly, *really.*

LESSON 57.

ENGLAND NOW.

IN the preceding lessons we have spoken of our country in its present state.

2. Having read those lessons carefully and thoughtfully, you will regard the land in which you live as a highly favoured one in every respect.

3. You can picture her excellent coast-line, so well guarded from enemies, and affording such fine harbours for ships. You will remember also the numerous lighthouses and light-ships, as well as the splendid service of lifeboats, which are the means of saving so many lives every year.

4. Your fancy can paint her splendid navy, and see the thousands of brave soldiers who form her

army, and the thousands more of volunteers ready to join them if needed.

5. Then you can roam in thought over her hills and mountains; through her green woods and valleys; past her winding streams; along the banks of her rivers; or across her fertile plains, rich with waving corn-fields, pasturage, and fruits. Old castles and grand cathedrals, towering here and there, will recall to your mind our country's past history, and add no little grandeur to the scene which your fancy views.

6. Leaving the natural beauties of the land, your thoughts fly to the busy places where dwell the toiling millions of people whose handiwork makes England so famous as a manufacturing nation. Here deep mines, glowing furnaces, huge factories, closely-built towns, have largely increased England's wealth and greatness, though they have taken from her much of her natural beauty. For the earth has been opened for mining; forests have been cut down, and fields dug over, to make space for immense work-shops, and long streets in which the people work and live.

7. Again, your thoughts will take you to our large and busy ports, and carry you on an imaginary voyage over seas vast and deep, in one of the fine vessels which convey our merchandise, and make Englishmen familiar with every country on the globe. You will see ships of almost every nation approaching our shores on all sides; bearing to us the produce of their own lands. Thinking of the endless stores they bring, you will be ready to exclaim: 'How

many nations must contribute ere this small England can be fed and clothed, and what great returns in money and goods she must make to them!' Then you will see them re-laden with our coal or iron, or manufactured goods, which they will carry back to their own countries. And you will remember, that this interchange between us and other nations is what we call commerce.

8. Then you will think of London as she is to-day.

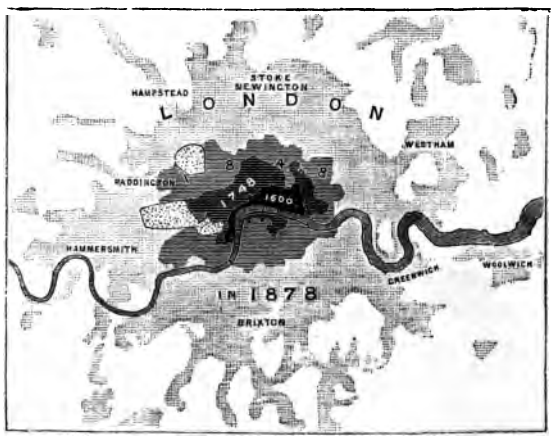


Diagram showing the growth of London from 1600 to 1878.

Her enormous population, her never-ending traffic, and the many various things which contribute to make her the greatest city in the world, will all pass before your mind.

9. The population of England and Wales is about twenty-six millions. Seeing England as she *is*, you will naturally begin to think of her as she *was*, in

the earlier times of which history tells us. Let us draw the contrast in our next lesson.

pre-ced'-ing	ex'-cel-lent	man-u-fac'-tur-ing	im-a'-gin-a-ry
thought'-ful-ly	guard'-ed	fur'-na-ces	mer'-chan-dise
fa'-voured	pas'-tur-age	in-creased'	ap-proach'-ing

vol-un-teers', *men who give their services if necessary.*

con-trib'-ute, *give.*
e-nor'-mous, *great.*
traf'-fic, *trade.*

LESSON 58.

ENGLAND FORMERLY.

Ancient Briton.

CAN you imagine this busy land of ours in the far-off times when it was covered with forests, and over-run with wild animals? There were no houses nor towns in those days, and very few inhabitants. They lived in huts made of mud and branches of trees; spent their time chiefly in hunting or fighting; clothed themselves partly in skins; stained their bodies blue; and lived altogether in a savage state.

2. They were called Britons, and were a very fine race of men, who bravely resisted the landing of any foreigners who ventured to approach their shores. But they were gradually overcome by the Romans, Saxons, Danes, and Normans, who in turn took possession of the country.

3. As these foreign invaders settled in the land, they introduced their own manners and customs, and England began to be more civilised. Space was cleared of forests, small towns gradually sprang up, and the land was to some extent cultivated.

4. The Normans were the most advanced in civilisation; and under their rule England improved greatly in every respect. They introduced many novelties both in the style of living and of dress. Many of the grand castles which they built are still marked by the gray ruins of their walls or keeps. Yet, even in their time, kings lived in wooden houses almost bare of furniture, what little there was being of the rudest kind.

5. Travelling was very different in the earlier days of our country's history. Roads were so bad and so few, that no one could journey except on foot or on horseback. It was only as far back as the sixteenth century that coaches were first used.

6. It is a difficulty for us to imagine England without good roads, without railways, telegraphs, newspapers, or letters.

7. Then to think of London built of wood, with narrow streets, in which the upper stories of opposite houses almost touched each other. No lights of any

kind in the streets by night, and but little light in many of them by day.

8. Great changes were wrought through the dis-

Coaches of the Seventeenth Century.

covery of coal and iron. The foundation of the navy in the time of Henry VII. had much to do with the increase of trade. The ships built for this purpose sailed across the seas to other countries, and thus opened up communication with them. Queen Elizabeth had large vessels built for trading purposes, and in many ways she did much to encourage English merchants in opening up trade with foreign countries.

9. But it is chiefly within the last two centuries that England has made the rapid progress which has given her world-wide fame. The preceding lessons have shown you how this progress has been brought about.

im-a'-gine	for'-eign-ers	tel'-e-graphs	foun-da'-tion
stained	civ-il-is-a'-tion	op'-pos-ite	com-mun-i-ca'-tion
sav'-age	fur'-ni-ture	wrought	pre-ced'-ing

in-vad'-ers, *those who enter a country to conquer it.*
in-tro-duced', *brought into use.*
grad'-u-al-ly, *step by step.*
nov'-el-ties, *new things.*
rap'-id, *very quick.*

LESSON 59.

THE ENGLISH BOY.

1. Look from the ancient mountains down,
   My noble English boy!
   Thy country's fields around thee gleam
   In sunlight and in joy.

2. Ages have rolled since foeman's march
   Passed o'er that old, firm sod;
   For well the land hath fealty held
   To freedom and to God!

3. Gaze proudly on, my English boy!
   And let thy kindling mind
   Drink in the spirit of high thought
   From every chainless wind!

4. There, in the shadow of old Time,
   The halls beneath thee lie,
   Which poured forth to the fields of yore
   Our England's chivalry.

5. How bravely and how solemnly
   They stand, midst oak and yew!
   Whence Cressy's yeomen haply framed
   The bow, in battle true.

6. And round their walls the good swords hang
Whose faith knew no alloy,
And shields of knighthood, pure from stain:
Gaze on, my English boy!

7. Gaze where the hamlet's ivied church
Gleams by the antique elm,
Or where the minster lifts the cross
High through the air's blue realm.

8. Martyrs have showered their free heart's blood
That England's prayer might rise,
From those gray fanes of thoughtful years,
Unfettered, to the skies.

9. Along their aisles, beneath their trees,
This earth's most glorious dust,
Once fired with valour, wisdom, song,
Is laid in holy trust.

10. Gaze on—gaze farther, farther yet—
My gallant English boy!
Yon blue sea bears thy country's flag,
The billows' pride and joy!

11. Those waves in many a fight have closed
Above her faithful dead;
That red-cross flag victoriously
Hath floated o'er their bed.

12. They perished—this green turf to keep
By hostile tread unstained,
These knightly halls inviolate,
Those churches unprofaned.

13. And high and clear their memory's light
Along our shore is set,
And many an answering beacon-fire
Shall there be kindled yet!

14. Lift up thy heart, my English boy!
And pray, like *them* to stand,
Should God so summon *thee*, to guard
The altars of the land.

Hemans.

foe'-man	shields	iv'-ied	un-fet'-tered
sol'-emn-ly	knight'-hood	realm	vic-to'-ri-ous-ly

fe'-al-ty, *good faith.*
yore, *in old time.*
chiv'-al-ry, *brave warriors.*
Cres'-sy's yeo'-men. *Cressy is a town in France, where Edward III. gained a victory over the French in* 1346. *The* yeomen *were the foot-soldiers.*
no al-loy', *no mixture with anything false or untrue.*
ham'-let, *small village.*
an-tique', *ancient.*
min'-ster, *a great and ancient church.*
mar'-tyrs, *persons who have died for their religious beliefs.*
fanes, *churches.*
aisle, *the side passage in a church.*
val'-our, *courage.*
gal'-lant, *brave and noble.*
hos'-tile, *belonging to an enemy.*
in-vi'-o-late, *uninjured.*
un-pro-faned', *not put to any unholy use.*
sum'-mon, *call.*

LESSON 60.

THINGS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO ENGLAND'S WEALTH AND GREATNESS.

OF the things which contribute to make England great and wealthy, the following should be specially remembered.

2. **Insular Position.**—This keeps England distinct from other countries, and lessens the risk of quarrels such as often arise between countries bordering upon each other. It also gives her command of the seas on all sides, thus making commerce easy, and protection from enemies sure.

3. **Wealth of Coal and Iron.**—These two minerals form the foundation of all her manufactures, and consequently of her wealth.

4. **The Industry and Ingenuity of her People.**—If Englishmen were not industrious, our great natural resources would be of little use in increasing our wealth. There must be willing workers where there is soil to cultivate, metals and minerals to unearth, and such variety of manufactures to be carried on. The cleverness of Englishmen in inventing machines gives them great advantage over other nations in a manufacturing point of view.

5. **Manufactures.**—No other country can compare with England in the variety and extent of her manufactures, and her goods are in demand all over the world.

6. **Facilities for Trade.**—Good roads, wide rivers, miles of canals, a complete network of railways, good harbours and ports for her fine merchant ships, add much to England's wealth by helping her trade.

7. **Temperate Climate.**—It is never too hot for people to work, nor so cold as to suspend traffic by making roads impassable.

8. **Good Government.**—Our land is well governed. The Queen rules wisely and justly, and she is guided by her statesmen and ministers chosen from among the people. The laws are made by the members of parliament whom the people send to represent them. This prevents discontent, and secures a peaceful state of things *within* the country. Good and wise laws are made and enforced, with a view to the general order and welfare of the nation. Thus, while Old England is great and rich, she has every reason for being happy too.

con-trib'-ute	pro-tec'-tion	in-dus'-tri-ous	com-plete'
re-mem'-bered	foun-da'-tion	re-sour'-ces	dis-con-tent'
com'-merce	con'-se-quent-ly	ad-van'-tage	se-cures'

in-gen-u'-i-ty, *cleverness in doing anything.*

fa-cil'-i-ties, *helps.*

sus-pend', *stop.*

REVISION LESSONS.

BOUNDARIES OF ENGLAND.

North—Cheviot Hills and the River Tweed.
East—North Sea.
South—English Channel.
West—Irish Sea, St George's Channel, and Atlantic Ocean.

EXTENT OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

Greatest Length, about 420 miles, from Berwick-on-Tweed to Lizard Point in Cornwall.
Greatest Breadth, about 360 miles, from Lowestoft Ness to Land's End.
Area. England and Wales cover an area of 58,000 square miles.
Extent of Coast-line, about 2000 miles.

CAPES.

EAST COAST—**Flamborough Head** and **Spurn Head** in Yorkshire; **Lowestoft Ness**, the most easterly point of England, in Suffolk; The **Naze**, in Essex; **North** and **South Forelands**, in Kent.
SOUTH COAST—**Dungeness**, in Kent; **Beachy Head**, in Sussex; **St Alban's Head** and **Portland Point**, in Dorset; **Start Point**, in Devon; **Lizard Point** and **Land's End**, in Cornwall.
WEST COAST—**Hartland Point**, in Devonshire; **Worm's Head**, in Glamorganshire; **St David's Head**, in Pembroke; **Great Orme's Head**, in Denbigh; **St Bee's Head**, in Cumberland.

INLETS.

EAST COAST—Estuaries of the **Tees**, **Humber**, **Wash**, and **Thames**.
SOUTH COAST—**Portsmouth Harbour**, the chief naval station of England; **Southampton Water**; **Tor Bay**; **Plymouth Sound**; and **Mount's Bay**.
WEST COAST — **Bristol Channel**, which has within it the smaller openings of Carmarthen, Swansea, Bideford, and Bridgewater Bays; **Milford Haven**; **Cardigan Bay**; **Morecambe Bay**; the **Solway Firth**; mouths of the **Mersey**, **Dee**, and **Ribble**.

ISLANDS AND STRAITS.

THREE CHIEF ISLANDS—**Isle of Wight**, off the south coast; **Anglesea**, off the coast of North Wales; **Isle of Man**, in the Irish Sea.
SMALLER ISLANDS—**Scilly Isles**, off the coast of Cornwall; **Channel Islands**, off the coast of France; **Holy Island** and the **Farne Islands**, off the north-east coast; **Sheppey**, **Walney**, and **Lundy Isles**.
STRAITS—The **Solent** and **Spithead**, between the Isle of Wight and Hampshire; the **Menai Strait**, between Anglesea and the coast of North Wales; and the **Straits of Dover**, between England and France.

MOUNTAINS.

Pennine Range, extending from the Cheviot Hills to The Peak in Derbyshire. Greatest heights in this range—Cross Fell, Whern-

side, Ingleborough, Pen-y-gant, and The Peak.

Cumbrian Group fills a great part of the counties of Westmoreland and Cumberland, its chief heights being Scafell, Helvellyn, and Skiddaw, all over 3000 feet high.

Devonian Range extends through Devon and Cornwall, and contains the table-lands of Dartmoor and Exmoor. The highest point in the range is Yes Tor.

Cambrian Group embraces the whole of the Welsh Mountains. Its chief heights are Snowdon, the highest mountain in England and Wales; Plinlimmon, Cader Idris, and Brecknock Beacon.

Of lower ranges, which receive the name of hills only, there are:

Cotswold Hills, Gloucestershire.
Malvern Hills, Worcestershire.
Mendip Hills, Somersetshire.
Gogmagog Hills, Cambridgeshire.
Wrekin, Shropshire, is a solitary peak, over 1300 feet high.
North Downs, Kent and Surrey.
South Downs, Hampshire and Sussex.

PLAINS AND VALLEYS.

Plain of York.
Central Plain, or the Trent Valley.
Cheshire Plain.
Eastern Plain, extending through the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex.
Fenland, embracing the low-lying country round the Wash.
Thames Valley.
Valley of the Severn.
Plain of the New Forest.
Salisbury Plain, in Wiltshire.
Weald, lying between the North and South Downs.

LAKES.

Windermere, the largest, lies between Westmoreland and Lancashire.
Ullswater, between Westmoreland and Cumberland.
Coniston Water, lying to the west of Windermere.
Rydal Water, about a mile from Windermere.
Derwentwater, the little gem of the lakes, is in Cumberland.
Bala Lake is the largest lake in Wales.

RIVERS.

EASTERN SLOPE—
Thames, rising in the Cotswold Hills, and having a course of 200 miles. Its chief tributaries are the Lea, Kennet, and Medway.
Humber, a wide estuary formed by the junction of the **Yorkshire Ouse** and **Trent.**
Tyne, which forms part of the boundary-line between Durham and Northumberland.
Tees forms the boundary between Durham and Yorkshire.
Witham, Welland, Nen, and **Great Ouse** are the smaller rivers flowing into the North Sea.

SOUTHERN SLOPE—
Itchin, flowing into Southampton Water.
Avon, which flows through New Forest.
Exe, on which Exeter stands.
Dart, rising in Dartmoor.

WESTERN SLOPE—
Severn, which rises in Plinlimmon, and flows into the Bristol Channel.
Mersey, the most important river of the west.
Dee, on which the ancient town of Chester stands.
Ribble and **Eden**, smaller and unimportant rivers.

FORESTS.

New Forest, in Hampshire, noted for its fine oaks and lovely scenery.
Forest of Dean, in Gloucestershire, famous for its coal-mines.
Windsor Forest, part of the royal estate of Windsor Castle, the residence of the Queen.
Epping Forest, famous as a holiday resort of the inhabitants of London.

Sherwood Forest, in Nottinghamshire, once the favourite haunt of Robin Hood.

CLIMATE.

Changeable—rain and sunshine, cold and heat, often quickly follow each other.

Temperate—never too hot nor too cold to work.

Healthy—not so naturally productive of fatal diseases as colder or hotter climates are.

COAL-FIELDS.

York, Derby, and Nottingham Coal-field is the *largest*, covering about 760 square miles.

Northumberland and Durham is the *richest*, producing about one-fourth of the coal found in England.

Lancashire Coal-field comes next in size, having an area of 217 square miles.

Staffordshire Coal-field extends through North and South Staffordshire.

Gloucester and Somerset, Cumberland, Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Shropshire, and the Forest of Dean Coal-fields are smaller and not so rich.

South Wales Coal-field is the largest in Wales; the smaller ones being those of **Denbigh, Flint, and Anglesea.**

METALS AND MINERALS.

Iron is found chiefly in the Cleveland District in Yorkshire; also in North and South Staffordshire, South Wales, Forest of Dean, and in Cumberland.

Tin, in Devonshire and Cornwall.

Copper, in Devon, Cornwall, Lancashire, and North and South Wales.

Lead, in Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Northumberland, Cumberland, Cornwall, Devon, and Wales.

Silver and Zinc are found in small quantities in the lead and copper mines.

Salt, in Cheshire and Worcestershire.

Slate, in North Wales, Cumberland, and Cornwall.

Building-stone, in Somerset, Wiltshire, Yorkshire, and Derbyshire, chiefly.

Clay, in Middlesex, Essex, Kent, Staffordshire, Worcester, and Derby.

AGRICULTURE.

Corn, in the form of wheat, barley, oats, and rye, is grown almost everywhere, but chiefly in the eastern and south-eastern counties.

Hops, in Kent, Surrey, Worcestershire, and Hereford.

Cattle-rearing forms a leading feature of the farming industry of Lincoln, Leicester, Northampton, Hereford, and Somerset.

Fruits are cultivated in most parts of the country, Hereford and Devon being specially famed for apples.

SEATS OF MANUFACTURES.

Cotton—Manchester, Blackburn, Bolton, Oldham, Preston, Stockport, Bury, Wigan, Ashton.

Wool—Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield, Halifax, Wakefield, Dewsbury, Batley.

Linen—Leeds.

Cloth and Carpets—Leeds, Dewsbury, Kidderminster, Trowbridge, Frome, Wilton.

Hardware—Birmingham, Sheffield, Wolverhampton, and Dudley.

Silk — Macclesfield, Congleton, Derby, Nottingham, Coventry, and Spitalfields.

Leather—chiefly in London, Stafford, and Northampton.

Earthenware — chiefly in North Staffordshire, in the district known as 'The Potteries.' Chief towns, Burslem, Hanley, Stoke, Longton.

Shipbuilding—London, Liverpool, Sunderland, West Hartlepool,

Newcastle, North Shields, South Shields.
Paper-making—chiefly in Kent.
Glass—in many parts of the country, chiefly at Newcastle, Sunderland, Gateshead, St Helen's, Birmingham, and Castleford.
Watch-making and Clock-making—Clerkenwell, Coventry, and Prescot.
Lace and Hosiery—Nottingham and Leicester.
Lucifer Matches—chiefly in London.
Tobacco—London, Liverpool, and Bristol.
Biscuit-making—London, Reading, and Carlisle.
Sugar-refining—Bristol, Plymouth, Hull, and London.
Straw-plaiting—Luton and Dunstable.
Soap—chiefly in London and Widnes in Cheshire.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

Exports—The chief articles are cotton, woollen, and linen goods, coals, earthenware, machinery, and other articles of iron and steel. The annual value of the exports is about £300,000,000.
Imports—The chief articles are corn, raw cotton, wool, raw sugar, timber, and tea. The annual value of the imports is about £400,000,000.

IMPORTS—THE COUNTRIES FROM WHICH THEY COME.

Butter, Cheese, Eggs—Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, America, Ireland.
Cattle, Fresh Meat, Tinned Meat—America, Australia.
Coffee—Ceylon, West Indies, Arabia.
Corn—United States, Canada, Russia, Australia, India.
Cotton—United States, India, Egypt.
Flax—Russia, Holland, Belgium.
Furs—North America, Russia.
Gold—Australia, California.
Gutta-percha, India-rubber—South America, East India Islands.
Hemp—Russia, Austria, Italy, India.
Hides and Tallow—South America, India, Russia.
Llama and Alpaca Hair—South America.
Palm Oil—West Africa.
Ostrich Feathers—South Africa.
Ropes, Sails, Cordage—Made at most of our seaports.
Silk—France, Italy, China, India, Japan.
Sugar—West Indies, Brazil; beet-root-sugar, France.
Tea—China, India.
Timber—British America, Norway, Sweden.
Toys and Fancy Goods—France, Germany.
Wines, Dried Fruits, Oranges—Spain, Portugal, France, Turkey, Greece.
Wool—Australia, South Africa, Germany.

COUNTIES AND CHIEF TOWNS.

(The county town is in italics; the largest town in black letter, except when it is also the county town.)

I. ENGLAND.

SEVEN EASTERN COUNTIES—
Northumberland—*Alnwick*, **Newcastle-on-Tyne**, North Shields, Tynemouth, Berwick-on-Tweed.
Durham—*Durham*, S. Shields, **Sunderland**, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Stockton, Darlington.
York—*York*, **Leeds**, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, Wakefield, Sheffield, Hull, Scarborough, Whitby, Middlesborough.
Lincoln—*Lincoln*, Grantham, Grimsby, Boston.
Norfolk—*Norwich*, Yarmouth, King's Lynn.
Suffolk—*Ipswich*, Lowestoft.
Essex—*Chelmsford*, **Colchester**, Harwich.

SEVEN WESTERN COUNTIES—
Cumberland—*Carlisle*, Whitehaven, Maryport, Workington, Keswick.
Westmoreland—*Appleby*, **Kendal**.

Lancashire—*Lancaster*, **Liverpool, Manchester**, Oldham, Bolton, Blackburn, Preston, Rochdale, Wigan, Barrow-in-Furness, Warrington.
Cheshire—*Chester*, **Birkenhead**, Nantwich, Crewe, Stockport, Macclesfield, Northwich.
Shropshire—*Shrewsbury*.
Hereford—*Hereford*.
Monmouth—*Monmouth*, Chepstow.

SIX WEST-MIDLAND COUNTIES—
Derbyshire—*Derby*, Matlock, Buxton, Chesterfield.
Staffordshire—*Stafford*, Stoke, Burslem (and other towns called by the general name of **The Potteries**), Newcastle-under-Lyme, Burton-on-Trent, Tamworth, Walsall, **Wolverhampton**.
Warwick—*Warwick*, Coventry, **Birmingham**, Rugby, Stratford-upon-Avon.
Worcestershire—*Worcester*, Droitwich, Kidderminster, **Dudley**.
Gloucester—*Gloucester*, Cheltenham, **Bristol**.
Oxfordshire—*Oxford*, Banbury.

TEN EAST-MIDLAND COUNTIES—
Nottinghamshire — *Nottingham*, Newark.
Leicestershire—*Leicester*, Market-Bosworth, Loughborough.
Rutlandshire—*Oakham*, Uppingham.
Northamptonshire — *Northampton*, Peterborough.
Huntingdon—*Huntingdon*, St Ives.
Cambridgeshire—*Cambridge*, Ely.
Bedford—*Bedford*.
Buckinghamshire — *Aylesbury*, Buckingham, Eton.
Hertfordshire—*Hertford*, **St Albans**.
Middlesex—*Brentford*, **London**.

TEN SOUTHERN COUNTIES—
Kent—*Maidstone*, **Greenwich**, Woolwich, Gravesend, Rochester and Chatham, Canterbury, Margate, Ramsgate, Deal, Dover, Folkestone.
Surrey—*Guildford*, **Croydon**, Richmond.
Sussex—*Lewes*, Chichester, **Brighton**, Hastings, St Leonards, Newhaven.
Berkshire—*Reading*, Windsor.
Hampshire—*Winchester*, Southampton, **Portsmouth**, Ryde.
Wiltshire—*Salisbury*, Trowbridge, **Bradford**, Swindon, Marlborough.
Dorsetshire—*Dorchester*, **Weymouth**.
Somersetshire—*Bath*, Taunton, Bridgewater, Wells.
Devonshire—*Exeter*, Torquay, Dartmouth, **Plymouth**, Devonport.
Cornwall—*Bodmin*, Launceston, **Truro**, Falmouth, Penzance.

II. WALES.

SIX COUNTIES IN NORTH WALES—
Anglesea—*Beaumaris*, Holyhead.
Carnarvon—*Carnarvon*, Bangor, Conway.
Denbigh — *Ruthin*, Denbigh, **Wrexham**, Llangollen.
Flint—*Mold*, Flint, St Asaph.
Merioneth—*Bala*, **Dolgelly**.
Montgomeryshire — *Montgomery*, **Welshpool**.

SIX COUNTIES IN SOUTH WALES—
Cardigan — *Cardigan*, Aberystwyth, Lampeter.
Radnor—*Presteign*, Radnor.
Pembroke—*Pembroke*, **Milford**, St David's.
Carmarthen—*Carmarthen*, **Llanelly**.
Brecknock—*Brecon*.
Glamorgan—*Cardiff*, Llandaff, Merthyr-Tydvil, **Swansea**.

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